

Steel stoppage likely to go on for a month

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said last night that the state steel strike would go on for a month. There is a serious widening of the trade union challenge to the BSC plans to axe jobs, cut steel-making capacity, and enforce a wage deal for steel workers.

Temporary truce with miners sought

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The state steel strike is likely to go on for a month and TUC leaders are recommending withdrawal of the South Wales pit shutdown threat—but only at the risk of national strikes later. These developments last night represent a serious widening of the trade union challenge to the British Steel Corporation's plans to axe 53,000 jobs, cut steel-making capacity and enforce a self-financing wage deal for steel workers.

After a day of talks at TUC headquarters embracing unions in steel and other state industries, particularly coal mining, the TUC Nationalized Industries Committee drew up a formula to buy a temporary truce in the South Wales coalfield, but at the price of "serious industrial consequences" if the BSC does not put off its plant closure plans and have talks with all the unions involved.

Union leaders seek early talks

This peace proposal will be discussed by the Wales TUC leadership on Monday, and as coalfield union leaders did not vote against it last night it is expected that the widespread industrial action, due to start on January 21, will be abandoned.

Mr David Lea, assistant general secretary of the TUC, asked about the significance of the remark about serious industrial consequences in the TUC document, said: "The clear inference is that stoppages of work will be considered if there was no reasonable accommodation reached in the talks."

The union leaders want talks with British Steel to start at the earliest possible moment with the objective of maintaining steelmaking at Port Talbot, Llanwern, and Consett and taking into account the social and employment effect of the BSC's plant closure proposals.

The TUC committee wants to meet ministers or the BSC or both, to discuss these proposals together with the issue of coaling coal imports for which the unions want an £18m producing subsidy.

Wider union and Steel Trades Confederation are to meet officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service on Monday, but Mr William Sirs, the union general secretary, last night stated that he state steel strike involving over 100,000 men would go on for a month.

"There is not a shadow of doubt about that. When we go to Acas it will be only skirting round discussions of possibilities. Unless there is any money on the table nothing will happen."

A possible extension of the strike into the private sector, involving another 10,000

workers, will be discussed at another meeting of ISTC representatives on Tuesday.

Mr Sirs said he will be explaining the pressures coming from state steelworkers on his union's executive for a "one out, all out" shutdown of steel-making in Britain. The union's executive meets the following day to discuss its next move.

But it is the widening of the dispute into the area of government policy on industry that will cause ministers most anxiety. In a statement on the BSC's closure proposals adopted yesterday, the TUC steel committee said: "The Government have, ostensibly, contracted out of the situation declaring that the corporation's problems are the concern of theirs, while in reality they have created the problem and are perpetuating it by their policies."

There is a further threat by the steel unions to seek a High Court injunction against British Steel alleging that the corporation has not carried out its statutory duty laid down in the 1967 Act of nationalization to consult with the unions.

"Under the terms of the steel Act the unions have not been fully consulted regarding the details of their proposals being put forward by the corporation and we demand a suspension of the proposals until they have been fully discussed," the TUC policy document insists.

Moreover, the Government have in no way been prepared to accept the responsibility for the devastating social and regional consequences of its We do not believe, that the British people would in any way support this policy if they were given a full account of these consequences. There is not much time left for a change of course."

Risk of wider stoppages

This paper goes before the full TUC General Council on January 23, when it is almost certain to be endorsed as full TUC policy. In essence, the unions are demanding that the BSC should accede to their demands for genuine consultation or face the risk of wider stoppages than the coal-steel transport strike called by the Wales TUC.

Mr Frank Chapple, chairman of the Nationalized Industries Committee, refused to be drawn on the nature of the "most serious consequences" that would follow if the general council did not consider that the unions' talks with British Steel led to a reasonable accommodation. He did not argue with the suggestion that they will like the Wales TUC proposals but on a larger scale.

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Slingshot violence: Like David tackling Goliath, a young Iranian uses a sling to launch a stone at Revolutionary Guards supporting Ayatollah Khomeini in fierce fighting at Tabriz, capital of the East Azerbaijan province. Supporters of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, who want Tehran to grant them greater autonomy and to appoint new local officials, tried yesterday to seize the city's radio station for the third time in a month, and the clashes resulted in at least eight dead and more than 100 injured. Pro-Khomeini troops defended the station from behind sandbags. Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, who has made fruitless appeals for calm, may meet Ayatollah Khomeini within the next two days to discuss ways of defusing the Tabriz situation

Aswan summit failure a blow to hopes for Middle East peace

From Christopher Walker
Aswan, Jan 10

A serious blow has been dealt to the future of the fragile Middle East peace process by the complete failure of President Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Begin of Israel to reach agreement during their ninth summit meeting on the main issues outstanding.

At their joint press conference today it was clear that no progress had been made on bridging the wide differences that exist over Palestinian autonomy and the future status of east Jerusalem.

Until the two men had completed the last of their three meetings this morning, officials of both sides had hoped that a personal understanding might be reached which would help to break the deadlock in the autonomy negotiations.

However, when President Sadat spoke at Aswan's desert airport, he seemed to have lost his recent robust optimism.

"We have fields of agreement and need more meetings to solve these differences," he said. "I myself had thought that on this visit we could reach a directive for our ministers, but we still have our differences on key issues."

Although the differences were not spelt out it is understood that Egypt is insisting that 100,000 Arab residents of east Jerusalem be counted as part of the occupied West Bank, as far as the proposed Autonomy Council is concerned. The Egyptians also insist that the council should be given no greater powers and allowed many more individual members than Israel will concede.

For his part, Mr Begin remains adamant that Jerusalem

is the "indivisible" capital of Israel. He is also unwilling to show the flexibility on the autonomy issue that the American Government is believed to be pressing him to adopt.

There was no indication of any development which might persuade leaders of the 1,100,000 Palestinian Arabs to join the talks.

More than half the discussions concerned the Soviet threat in the Middle East, but no agreement on security cooperation was arrived at. All that was said publicly was that both leaders saw the security situation in the region in the same way, and President Sadat repeated that he was prepared to provide military facilities for the Americans but not bases.

Diplomatic observers said that one result of the summit would be Egypt's further isolation in the Arab world.

Mr Begin disclosed that joint flights between Cairo and Tel Aviv will begin on January 26 and be operated by both El Al and Egyptair. If this pledge is kept, it is likely to add to Egypt's difficulties in operating elsewhere in the Arab world.

January 25 will also mark the start of direct telephone and telecommunication links and the opening of land borders on a regular basis.

On the normalization, let me tell you this," President Sadat said. "It shall be carried out according to Camp David by word and also by spirit."

This statement seemed to rule out earlier suggestions by senior Egyptian ministers that the pace of normalization would be linked directly to progress in achieving autonomy for the Palestinians.

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Russians keep out of sight in Jalalabad

From Robert Fisk
Jalalabad, Afghanistan, Jan 10

We were halfway down the narrow, one-way road along the Khyber Pass, when a car came towards us, flashing its headlights and skidding to a halt.

The driver, unshaven and turbaned, knew only that there was "trouble" further on down the road. He raised his hands in a gesture of ignorance and fear and then, having vouchsafed this vague intelligence, he drove off behind us at speed.

In the mountains of Afghanistan you do not take such warnings lightly. Perhaps the stories were told at school of British regiments massacred by tribesmen in the Khyber Pass gave the affair a more disturbing flavour. So when we drove gingerly on towards the winding road we watched the rocks above us where the snow line ended and the crags gave cover for an ambush.

We carried on like this for 10 miles without meeting another car until we reached the little village of Sorobi where a group of decrepit old buses and a taxi that should have been phased out of existence 30 years ago were parked beside a barber's shop. There was an Afghan policeman standing in the road who referred to equally indistinct terms to an "ambush" on the road ahead. The road had been blocked, he said.

So, beside the highway with the mountains towering above us and the Kabul river carrying the melted snows in a thrashing torrent down the ravine below, we waited for a moment until two Russian tanks came round the corner followed by two lorry loads of Afghan soldiers.

The tank crews swept past to the south, the tank tracks cutting into the tarmac road surface. The Russian tanks were staring ahead. The soldiers, each holding an automatic rifle, gave two cheers as they passed through the village but received no reply.

We followed them further down the pass out of the snow line and into a hot plain where the biting sub-zero temperatures and ice of the mountains was replaced by dust and orange groves beside the road.

A lorry load of soldiers suddenly pulled off the road when an officer heard gunfire up in the cliffs and for a moment watched the soldiers scrambling up the rocks out of sight as if they were figures in an old oil painting of imperial hostilities in the Khyber.

We drove behind the tanks into the plain and round a bend in the road we came to the scene of the ambush. For a quarter of a mile the trees which lined the road had been cut down. There were troops there now and two Russian

Continued on page 8, col 4

BR scientists invent way to recycle oil

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A saving of more than £10m a year and 100,000 tons of high quality lubricating oil can be made in Britain through an invention which must rank among the most important single innovations in energy conservation since the crisis of 1973.

A process for recycling lubricants of diesel engines has been perfected by scientists at British Rail, and the equipment designed for recycling oil from locomotives is to be extended for operators of lorries, buses, ships and industrial engines.

The discovery of an economic method for recovering diesel lubricants was made four years ago. A research group of British Rail's laboratories at Doncaster has carried out proving trials since then on 100 locomotives of the total fleet of 3,000 diesel electric engines. A special plant was built at Nottingham, South East Midlands, for recycling.

Details of the invention were presented yesterday, with plans for other plants to cover all the railway network and with the terms of a commercial agreement with a company specialising in all forms of recycling of oils, Sunlec Limited.

That organization is establishing other centres, some of them under licence, at which oil from road vehicles, marine engines and factories can be processed.

Mr Gilbert Armstrong, managing director of Sunlec, refers to the procedure as "laundering" so as to make a distinction with a method of re-refining of oil products that is possible, though at great expense.

The invention hinges on a discovery by chemists at the Doncaster laboratory of a blend of agents for coagulating most of the contaminants such as carbonaceous particles from unburnt fuel, traces of metal from the wear on pistons and so on.

After treatment with the coagulant, the mixture is laundered in a standard type of industrial centrifuge which separates the coagulant that has absorbed the contaminants from the oil.

The advantage of the coagulant, for which British Rail has a patent, lies in the ability it opens for small and inexpensive recycling plants.

A unit costing £50,000 will handle upwards of 100,000 gallons a year, whereas refining is considered practical only in large operations with a plant costing about £2m.

Mr Brian Buckley, of British Rail's scientific services, said recycled oil saved 50 per cent of the cost of diesel lubricants, and the recovery process yielded 90 gallons of "as new" oil for each 100 gallons laundered.

The clean substance is ready for immediate use or for mixing with original lubricant. In the tests with locomotives, engines had been operated exclusively on recycled compounds.

The performance of each vehicle and the state of the engine had been compared at the normal servicing stages of planned maintenance with the rest of the fleet. There were no differences.

Mr Armstrong said that of more than one million tons of lubricating oils used in Britain a year, more than 100,000 tons for use with diesel engines was recoverable through the new process to be called Dieselclean.

Within the next two months Dieselclean plants will be operating in London, Manchester and Kent.

US West Coast dockers refuse to join Soviet shipping boycott

From Frank Vogt
Washington, Jan 10

American dockers on the West Coast are not going to join colleagues at ports on the East Coast and Gulf Coast in a boycott of Soviet shipping. The legality of the boycott is being studied by Government officials here, but so far the Government has made no attempt to force the dockers to abandon their plans.

Mr David Beagle, of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union in San Francisco said that his union was not intending to participate in the boycott of Soviet shipping and that his union's executive did not plan to discuss this matter. Yesterday, the International Longshoremen's Association in New York announced that it would try to convince the West Coast dockers to join the boycott.

It is difficult to determine just how much Soviet shipping will be affected by the boycott. It is probable that quite a number of ships will now be routed to the West Coast, rather than other American ports. The Federal Maritime Administration noted that as of Tuesday of this week there were six Soviet ships in American ports with only one of these on the West Coast. Registered movements call for the arrival of 15

Soviet ships on the East and Gulf coasts in the next four weeks.

The Department of Justice is believed to be looking into the question of whether the dockers here can legally impose their boycott. So far no decision has been taken. An official of the Longshoremen's Association in New York said today that the union had received no calls from the Government.

Iran sanctions: The United States is discussing with its allies further sanctions they might impose against Iran if the Soviet Union vetoes the sanctions proposals that are being submitted to the Security Council. In the first instance, these will be economic measures, but Government officials here will not say what they have in mind (Patrick Brogan writes from Washington).

The American position is that it would be justified in taking any appropriate steps, including the use of force, under the clauses of the United Nations Charter which guarantee nations the right to self-defence. The Americans had hoped that the Soviet Union would acquiesce in United Nations sanctions. It had, after all, supported the various resolutions which urged Iran to release the American hostages.

The Soviet invasion of

£3½m study of Venice waters

Rome, Jan 10.—The Italian Government today agreed to spend 6,500m lire (£3,650,000) in an attempt to combat high waters in Venice.

Part of the money will be spent on existing projects but most will go on further studies which should start being made on the problem before the end of this year.

Corsica call for general strike after shootings

orsican separatists holding 10 hostages are still entrenched in an Ajaccio hotel after violence in the city had cost three lives. Trade union and political organizations, demanding immediate negotiations, are demanding a general strike throughout the island. But the French Minister of the Interior said there would never be negotiations with the kidnappers, who were common law criminals.

3A cancels flights

British Airways cancelled six long-haul flights from Heathrow because of a pay dispute involving 8,500 engineers and aircraft maintenance workers from eight unions. The airline is expected to spread to the air-traffic controllers today, with 16 flights due for cancellation.

Airport crash scare

alls for tighter controls on flights leaving British airports are likely after an accident at Luton airport, Bristol. A Boeing 707 carrying 58 tons of fuel on a test flight hit a boundary hedge, breaking apart in a flap, and crossed a main road between five and 10ft.

Belgian peace

he Belgian Government's life has been extended because Mr Wilfried Martens, the Minister, was able to patch up a truce between the Flemings and French-speakers within his six-party coalition. But the prior of peace is the shelving of institutional reform.

State borrowing up

The Government is unlikely to succeed in limiting the public sector borrowing requirement to £8,300m in the present financial year. The main issue is whether the final figure will be above or below £9,000m. Slow payment of VAT and a high level of consolidated fund expenditure are blamed for the increase.

£2,600m car imports

Britain's import bill for the record 965,909 foreign cars brought last year will be about £2,600m. The imports were 56.28 per cent of the new car market, putting the motor industry's trade balance in deficit for the first time since the First World War.

Threat to Mini Metro

BL's Mini Metro, struggling to meet its October launching date, is now threatened by union rejection of management proposals to introduce sweeping changes in working practices in all its factories. Shop stewards have authorized strike action if necessary to force replacement of a pay offer.

Constitutional conference: Roman Catholic leaders and Democratic Unionists seem likely to accept the Government's offer of parallel talks at Stormont

Councils protest: The Association of District Councils has expressed "total opposition" to government proposals for financing local authorities.

Paris: A writer replaces a champion of gold as a member of the French Academy.

Delhi: Mrs Gandhi urges her followers not to show vindictiveness towards defeated opponents.

Classified advertisements: Appointments pages 8, 20, 23; car sales, 23; Personal 24, 26.

Britain claims £20m from France in lamb dispute

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

The EEC lamb dispute damaged yesterday as Britain claimed £20m damages from France while the European Commission decided to take the French Government to court on Monday.

Mr Finn Gundelach, EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, made it clear in London that he did not expect any progress in talks with French ministers today.

France had lifted its ban on imports of British lamb which had been declared illegal by the European Court of Justice last September, the Commission added. The new court case would be aimed at the levy which had replaced the ban and which would have the same discriminatory impact on Britain.

"I am not optimistic at all," Mr Gundelach said after talks with Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The new French levy was "not in accordance with the rules" and the case against it would not require a lengthy repetition of the evidence produced in court last year.

"We are interested in focusing on something, not blabbing over the same old process," Mr Gundelach said. Mr Walker called the new levy "obviously and blatantly and totally illegal" and a threat to "the very principles of the Treaty itself."

Britain made a written application to the Commission yesterday for recovery through the European Court, of damages resulting from British traders paying £11m in levies on lamb exports to France between mid-1978 and mid-1979. It also wanted a further £8.7m, the amount of deficiency payments to British farmers because market prices were below the guaranteed price fixed by Mr Walker in the spring.

The European court does have the power to award damages for violation of a decision of the court," Mr Walker said. He admitted that there was doubt about the strength of the case for the damages claimed on lamb.

"To some extent we are entering the world of the untested. We are led to believe that there is a good possibility that the European court can award damages."

Strong opposition to British claims on EEC dog policy was expressed yesterday by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, Community Commissioner for the Budget. He rejected British intentions of enlarging home production of foods like milk and sugar. The EEC has heavy surpluses of them.

Bomb victim's £774,986

By Robin Young

Nicholas Knatchbull, Lord Mountbatten's grandson, aged 14, who died in the bomb blast abroad the Earl's boat at Mullaghmore in August, left £774,986 (£776,212 gross).

He died intestate and letters of administration have been granted to his older brother, the Hon Norman Knatchbull and the Hon Michael John Knatchbull.

A tax expert said in London last night: "It would seem the money was vested in Nicholas at an early age, quite legitimately, to avoid death duties."

The family will now be heavily hit by capital transfer tax.

"There is some relief in cases of quick succession which might provide some mitigation for a short term."

Nicholas's father, Lord Brabourne, is a film and television producer whose cinema successes have included *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile*.

He has four surviving sons, including Nicholas's twin, Timothy, who was injured in the boat explosion, and two daughters.

Other wills, page 16

Six ways of helping children.

1 ☐ With a straight cash donation of whatever you can afford.

2 ☐ By covenanting your gift over seven years, so that we can reclaim the income tax you will otherwise have paid (it makes every £1 you give worth £1.43).

3 ☐ By making a regular donation through a monthly or quarterly bankers order (you can cancel it whenever you like).

4 ☐ By sending us old jewellery, gold or silver. It may have outlived its usefulness to you, but it can be sold by us to provide badly needed funds.

5 ☐ By taking a collection box into your home. You will be joining over 300,000 households who already help us in this way.

6 ☐ By remembering the Children's Society in your will.

Thank you for whatever you can do.

There are dozens of different ways in which the Children's Society helps children and their families. And there are dozens of different ways in which you can help us give that help. Here are just six of them. Can you manage one of them?

Church of England Children's Society

Room 7, Old Town Hall, Kennington Road, London, SE11 4QD.

Please cut out the whole advertisement and send it back.

HOME NEWS

NF chairman demands more power to deal with subversion

By Ian Bradley

Mr John Tyndall, chairman of the National Front, has said that he will resign unless he is given the power to deal with subversion and division within the party, he says, threaten to destroy the party.

In a letter to regional and branch organisers, he says the NF is going through the most critical period in its history "and will not survive 1980" unless certain matters are firmly dealt with now.

High on the list of those matters he puts the fact that prominent positions are being held by homosexuals, the widespread infiltration of the NF by those who want to destroy it, and the denial of effective powers of leadership and control over the organisation's internal affairs.

Mr Tyndall told The Times yesterday that later this month he would be convening a special meeting of the national directorate at which he would call for an extraordinary general meeting of all members. At that meeting he would propose certain changes in the constitution which would give him the power to make decisions and to approve or disapprove the appointment of key party officers.

He would regard those proposals as involving a vote of confidence in his leadership. Mr Tyndall said that the infiltration of the NF had come both from organisations on the far left and from other groups "who have planted people in the National Front to divide us". He mentioned specifically the League of St George, a

right-wing organization.

There has been increasing concern among the NF leadership in the last few months about the activities of Mr Paul Kavanagh and Mr Andrew Fountaine, two former members of the national directorate who were expelled from the party last autumn.

In December the two men launched what they described as a new "constitutional movement" to demand the resignation of Mr Tyndall and Mr Martin Webster, the publicity officer.

Mr Tyndall said that "the Fountaine-Kavanagh" faction had recently been intercepting mail posted to Exallbur House, the building in Shoreditch, east London, used by the National Front.

The building belongs to NF Properties Ltd, a company of which Mr Kavanagh is chairman and Mr Fountaine one of three trustees appointed by the National Front directorate. Mr Tyndall is taking the three trustees to court because he says they are no longer carrying out the will of the directorate.

"Control of the building is the principal weapon being used by those people who want to smash the party. They have used the company structure as a power base," he said. Mr Kavanagh said that the constitutional movement set up in December now had more than 2,000 members within the National Front. He denied that the movement had any formal links with the League of St George or that it had intercepted mail.

Legal curbs on council votes called 'bizarre'

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Local authorities are becoming increasingly concerned about the Government's interpretation of the law that disqualifies councillors with pecuniary interests from voting on matters related to those interests.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday that the situation was bizarre.

So far 31 councillors with children at state schools have been told by the Department of the Environment that they may speak but not vote on matters relating to school meals, milk and transport charges.

Hundreds more councillors are almost certainly breaking the law by voting on, or even discussing, such matters at council meetings without first gaining the necessary dispensation from the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Councillors who fail to declare a pecuniary interest are liable to prosecution, with a fine of up to £200.

Most councillors feel that the Secretary of State should grant a blanket dispensation, both to speak and to vote, to all parents with children at state schools, similar to the dispensation given to tenants to vote on council house charges.

However, his view is that permission to vote should not be given unless the number of councillors who are disqualified amounts to at least half the council or committee concerned, or "if they did not vote, policies might be adopted to which the majority of members were opposed".

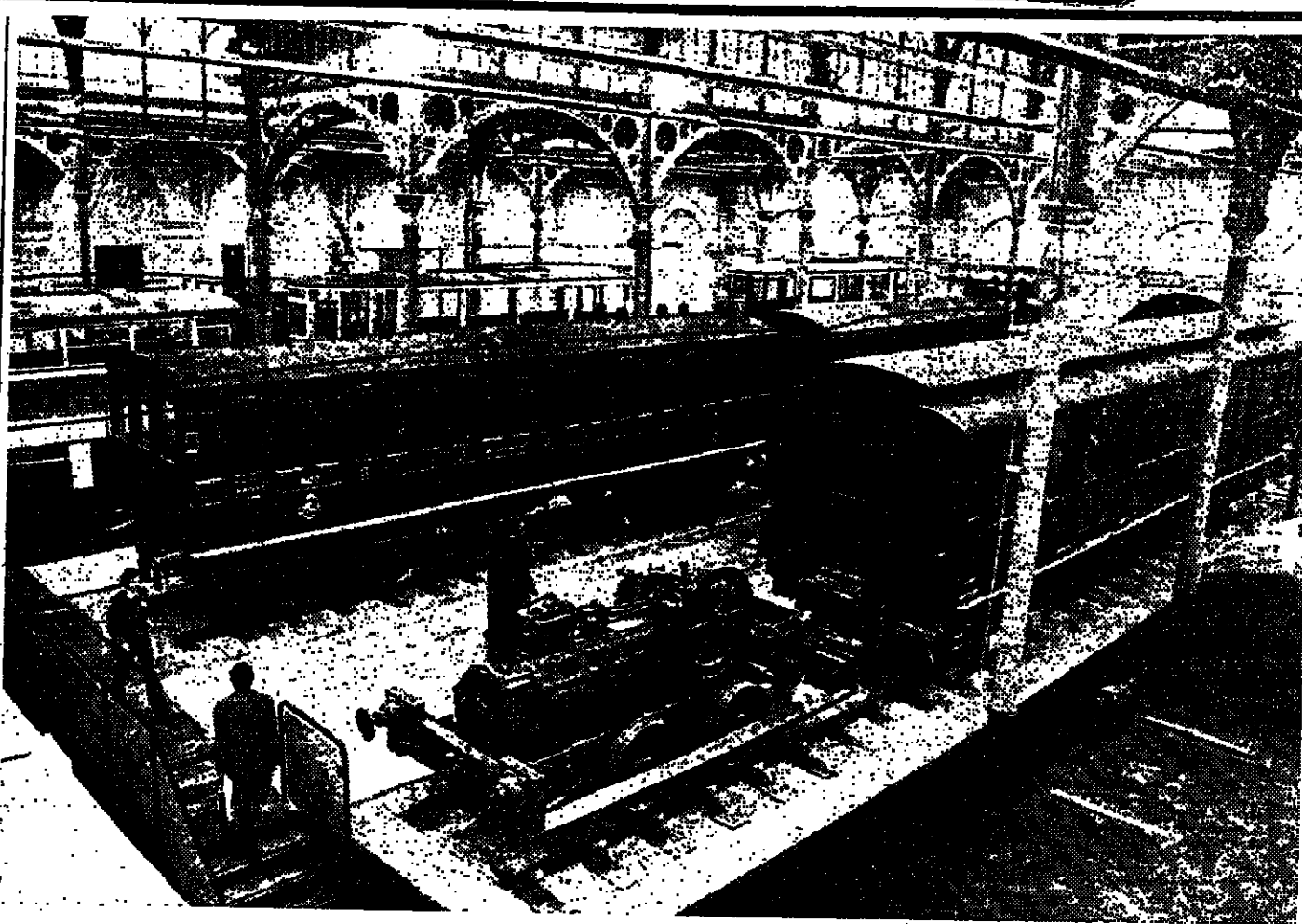
The association said that no one would know for certain whether the Government's interpretation of the law was correct until it was tested in the courts.

Previously matters like charges for school meals were believed to be outside the disqualification clause of the 1972 Local Government Act, the association said.

Mr Gordon Cunningham, education officer for the Association of County Councils, said: "The restrictions were surely intended to ensure that people's interests through their council work, and not to prevent consumers taking part in decisions on local authority services."

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, approached Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, on behalf of his Aylesbury constituents to ask for dispensation for councillors with children at state schools. His request was refused.

The trial continues today.



The Brill branch steam locomotive (in foreground), built in 1872, is among the exhibits in place at Covent Garden.

200 years of transport go on show

By a Staff Reporter

The keys to the new London Transport Museum, housed in the former Covent Garden flower market, were handed by the building contractors to the museum's management yesterday.

London's newest museum is to be opened on March 28 by Princess Anne. The nucleus of the collection is already in place, and Mr Michael Robbins, chairman of the museum's management committee, took possession of the keys from the contractors, J. A. Elliot, in a ceremony beside a bright red

West Ham Corporation tramcar with open balconies and stairs which first began service 70 years ago this month. and cast-iron columns of the former flower market have been removed, and the high glass roof has been preserved to make a light and airy setting for the exhibits.

One of the most formidable structures, which cost £1m, was the reconstruction of the floor to take the weight of railway engines, coaches, trams and buses.

The contractors found that the original floor was barely strong enough to take the weight of the flower stalls, and plinths have been laid to support individual vehicles. A large, strengthened platform has been built in the centre to support the rail exhibits on their tracks.

Mr Robbins is a former member of the London Transport executive, former managing director of railways for London Transport and an international authority on transport.

He said that the London Transport collection as a whole would be turned into a "real museum" housed in the centre of London. "The museum must stand economically on its own feet and I have every confidence that it will," he said.

The conversion of the old flower market to give it a new lease of life reflects the changes occurring in the Covent Garden area since the market moved to Nine Elms.

Among the historic exhibits already in place is the Brill branch steam locomotive No 807, a ten-ton engine with a huge, open flywheel and chain

drive, built in 1872 by Aveing and Power of Rochester and supplied to the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos for his private railway in Buckinghamshire.

There is also a low, dark, windowless carriage from the City and South London Railway, whose cushioned seats with high upholstered backs gave it the name of the "padded cell".

It was one of the first to run on London's first electric tube railway, with tunnels a little more than ten feet in diameter.

The museum will eventually hold exhibits representing nearly 200 years of London transport services, including London Transport's oldest bus, an original Thomas Tilling "knifecorner" horse bus of 1851.

Dispute threatens power station

A pay dispute threatens the completion of Britain's largest oil-fired power station, on the Isle of Grain, in the Thames estuary.

The dispute concerns payments for the thermal insulation The Central Electricity Generating Board said yesterday that if an agreement was not reached with the General and Municipal Workers' Union the site would be shut and 2,000 jobs lost.

Waste handling 'like US gas chambers'

From Our Correspondent

Wolverhampton

The method used by two West Midlands companies to handle lethal cyanide waste was the same as the Americans used for judicial executions in their gas chambers, the prosecution alleged at Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Richard Curtis, QC, for the prosecution, said that in the gas chamber condensed men were executed by mixing acid with cyanide, which gave off

deadly cyanide vapours. In the Wednesday yard of the two companies the same dangerous process went on.

He told the court that workmen mixed acid with industrial cyanide waste, a process that liberated cyanide vapour. He added: "It was extremely dangerous; even an eggcupful of the vapour can be fatal."

He said that the defendants had not got the facilities or the knowledge to handle cyanide in the proper way, and if that sort

of waste was being handled, protective clothing and carefully controlled conditions were required. The most workmen had was a pair of wellington boots and an odd pair of gloves.

Brasway Ltd, and Brasway (Waste Disposal) Ltd, of Lea Brook Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, and four employees have all denied four charges of conspiracy relating to the illegal dumping on land and at sea of toxic industrial waste. The trial continues today.

Chiefs of staff reports seen by Prof Blunt

By Stewart Tendler

While spying for Russia, Professor Anthony Blunt and H. A. R. Philby attended wartime meetings of the intelligence committee which reported to the chiefs of staff and through them to Churchill.

The Joint Intelligence Committee to the Chiefs of Staff was set up to coordinate the flow of intelligence and provide assessments before operations. The membership included the head of intelligence in each branch of the Armed Services and the directors of M15 and M16. The chairman was a senior Foreign Office man.

The committee could provide a global view of intelligence and draw from that an assessment in answer to questions from the chiefs of staff. They would be asked, for example, to estimate the possibility of the Germans invading Russia.

The details and deliberations of the committee have not been publicly revealed.

But it is known that every Tuesday the committee would meet the chiefs of staff and go over their reports and assessments.

On several occasions, an intelligence source reports, Professor Blunt attended to represent M15 and Philby on behalf of M16 but not necessarily at the same time. Both men were not senior enough in their services to have been deputies for their directors and it is thought they attended to give expert advice.

Throughout the war the committee kept an eye on the position of their Allies and by 1944 Russia began to loom large. It was probably at that point that Philby and Professor Blunt would have been useful.

Since the revelation of his role Professor Blunt has maintained that he passed on only relatively trivial things about M15 and the details of German military intelligence messages decoded in Britain.

Monolingual America

Dr Steven Muller, president of the Johns Hopkins University, argues in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today that the "monolingual isolationism" of America is shameful and damaging. Professor Steven Rose considers the state of learned journals in biology, and Patricia Santinelli reports on the reopening of the debate about the future of the British Library.

Football club chairman is cleared on three counts

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham

Stuart Dryden, chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, was cleared at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday of three charges of stealing old people's pension books and cashing them.

Judge Kellock, QC, directed the jury to return verdicts of not guilty on the three charges, which involved £24. He upheld a submission by Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the defence, that it would not be safe to proceed further on those counts.

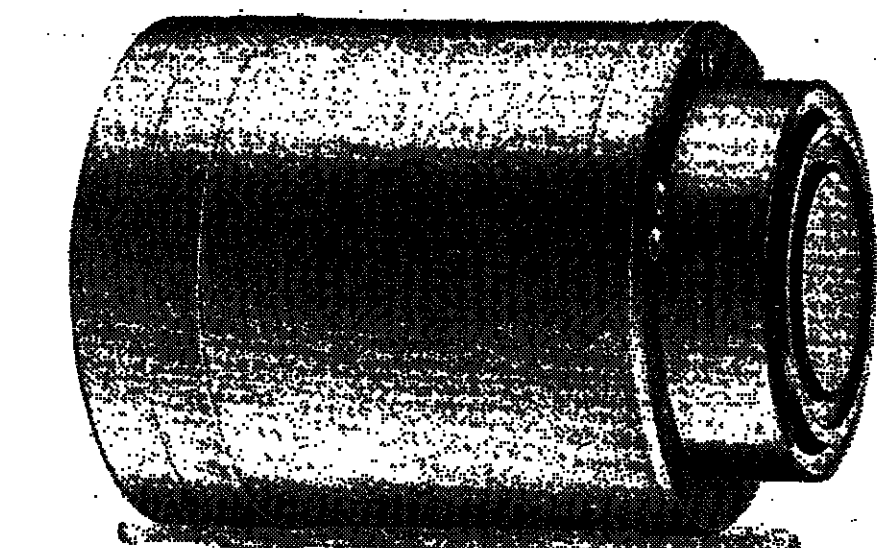
Mr Dryden, aged 53, a magistrate, who gave his address as Trevor Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, still faces 12 charges of theft and deception

involving £256. He has pleaded not guilty. He told the jury yesterday: "I never stole any money from the Post Office. Nor did I cash any pension book orders."

He is alleged to have cashed the pension books of four old women, including one who had died, while sub-postmaster at Ruddington, near Nottingham, over a seven-year period. He is also said to have cashed a family allowance book and a falsely claimed holiday pay for a relative to stand in for him while he was on holiday.

Mr Dryden denied police suggestions that he put up money to buy his chairmanship of Nottingham Forest, became hard up and then turned to theft.

The trial continues today.



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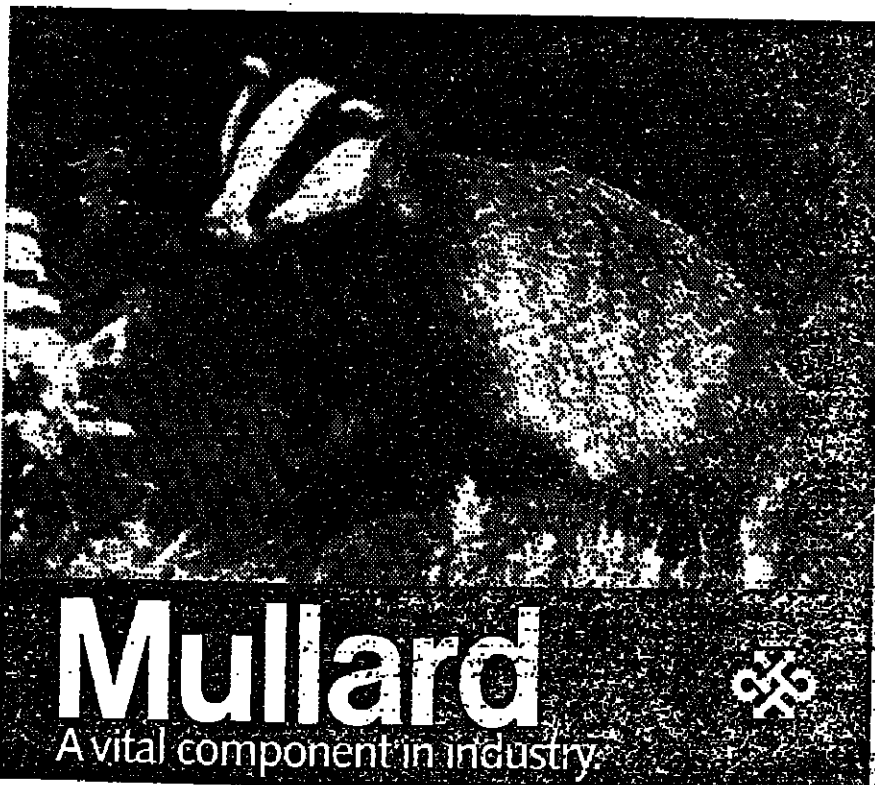
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HOME NEWS

Newspaper reports of hooliganism often a cause of football violence, psychologists are told

From Frances Gibb, Southampton
Sensational press coverage of football hooliganism causes some of the violent behaviour among the team supporters, a conference of educational psychologists at Southampton was told yesterday.

Dr Roger Ingham, a psychology lecturer at Southampton University, who is working on a £1.5m Sports Council project to investigate football hooliganism, said that if all newspapers stopped publishing tomorrow, football hooliganism would decline.

The style of press coverage, particularly in the popular newspapers, had a big effect on events, he told a discussion group at the British Psychological Society conference. "If supporters feel they have a reputation to keep up when they visit a new town, they will do so," he said.

A recent match between Southampton and Chelsea was greatly built up by one national and two local newspapers, which all predicted that much trouble would occur.

"Afterwards, the press said that a lot of Southampton supporters who do not usually carry knives took them to that particular game because they had been told how violent Chelsea was," Dr Ingham said.

The language used in the press often carried connotations that football supporters were mindless thugs or animals. After one

such report there was a case of supporters running through a town, saying: "We hate humans", an action lifted from the language of the press, Dr Ingham said.

Other contributory factors were the concentration of the press on crowd behaviour rather than the game, and the quoting of hard-line football managers rather than a spectrum of views.

"All this not only has an effect on events and those involved, but also on public opinion, and helps push people towards the feeling of panic and 'help, what can we do?'"

Nowadays, faced with four supporters wearing team scarves, members of the public tended to keep their distance and be fearful, Dr Ingham said. "And the way the public reacts must eventually have an effect on the fans, who begin to assume that identity."

Dr Ingham, who is editor of a book published in 1978 entitled *Football Hooliganism: The Wide Context*, has been commissioned by the Sports Council to monitor a scheme under which 39 football clubs are trying to improve the life of the club and educate supporters about the damage they can do to a team's reputation.

Results of a survey of seven clubs are expected in 18 months.

The conference, attended by nearly 100 psychologists, also heard that the cost of vandalism

in schools has probably not risen in real terms during the past decade.

Mr J. E. Harrison, a Sheffield psychologist, said a case study had shown that the cost of vandalism in Sheffield schools was just under £1,000 a week last year, or £50,485 for the year.

Although that was a rise of more than £9,500 on the year before, and that year's figure in turn a rise over the previous year, it was largely because of inflation.

Criticism of the notion that playgrounds were the answer for the urban child in a deprived environment came from Mr Colin Ward, author of *The Child in the City* (Penguin) who said children should be able to play freely in the city around them.

"The failure of an urban environment can be measured in direct proportion to the number of playgrounds," he said.

Vast numbers of children in cities were trapped because there was nothing they could afford to do and their whole background and culture prevented them from benefiting from their schools.

Cities really concerned with the needs of the young should find ways of absorbing them, he said.

Teachers had told him of teenage children in Bristol who had never been to their city centre, teenagers in Brent who had never seen the Thames, and children in Lambeth and Southwark who had never crossed the Thames.

Verdict soon on new 'safe waste' process

By John Young, Planning Reporter

Within the next few weeks the Thames Water Authority and Essex County Council are expected to pronounce a verdict on a new waste disposal process. If it meets with their approval, it may have a worldwide effect on land reclamation and the safe disposal of toxic chemical effluents.

The first stage of the process consists of the conversion of potentially dangerous waste matter, including acids, heavy metals, cyanides and caustic alkalis into a safe, neutralized slurry.

In the second stage, the slurry is taken by tanker and dumped into pits and quarries, where it hardens into an inert and virtually impermeable "plastic rock".

It is hoped that it will produce a solution to the long-standing difficulty of sealing chalk pits to prevent seepage into the surrounding soil. At present there are 4,000 acres of such pits in Essex alone, excavated over the years to supply the needs of the cement industry but now largely abandoned.

Not only is the land crying out for reclamation, but various bodies, notably the Greater London Council, are anxious to use the pits for refuse disposal. So far they have been unable to do so because leaking through the porous chalk poses a risk to water supplies.

The process was developed by Leigh Interests Ltd, which



A tanker pumping safe slurry, converted from potentially dangerous waste, into an old clay pit near Aveley, Essex.

established a pilot plant at Aldridge, West Midlands, in 1973. Subsequently the company formed a partnership with Tunnel Cement Ltd, under the name Stablex Ltd, which uses a former Tunnel plant at Thurrock, Essex, and can handle up to 400,000 tons of industrial waste a year.

Stablex has a pilot plant

operating in Japan under licence, and is looking at various sites in Europe. It has also formed an American subsidiary, in which Rio Tinto-Zinc has a 50 per cent holding.

The treatment process absorbs almost every part of the waste, whether liquid, slurry or solid, including even metal containers, and there are no

by-products. The cost averages between £12 and £20 a ton, excluding transport, although in some cases it may be higher. Although it is more expensive than straightforward tipping on dumps, Mr Philip Winslow, the company's marketing director, is confident that environmental pressures will make treatment of industrial

waste increasingly attractive. "We do not claim by any means that we can treat everything," he says. "We cannot take oils and solvents except in small quantities, and of course nuclear waste is out of the question. But we reckon we can deal with about 65 per cent, and over the years we will extend our range."

Head cleared of blame for death of truant boy

From Our Correspondent, Nottingham

A headmaster was cleared at an inquest in Nottingham yesterday of blame for the death of a pupil aged 14 who shot himself after he was being taken to the head's study the next day.

Mr Claude Mack, the coroner, said he was calling the headmaster, Mr Barry Ellis, to give him an opportunity to clear his name. He told Mr Ellis: "You were not in any way involved with this. You have been put in a somewhat invidious and worrying position."

Raymond Parker, of Robin Hood Avenue, Warsop, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, shot himself through the head with his father's rifle on December 13. Mrs Jean Parker, his mother, told the coroner that she had been suspicious for some days that the boy, an only child, had been playing truant.

A verdict of suicide while the state of his mind was disturbed was recorded.

Mrs Parker said she telephoned to the Meden comprehensive school, at Warsop, and the school secretary said that her son had not been to school for a week. That night he admitted playing truant. Mrs

Parker said she told her son: "You will have to see the headmaster in the morning."

The boy went upstairs but came down later and said: "Mum, have I really got to see the headmaster?" She told him she was taking him herself, and he seemed upset. A few minutes later he shouted from upstairs and she found him slumped beside his bed with blood pouring from his throat.

He said: "Look what I have done, mum. I have shot myself." His last words were: "I feel funny." He died a few minutes after arriving at hospital, without regaining consciousness.

The headmaster told the hearing that the boy was not a problem child. He added: "On no occasion has Raymond been subjected to corporal punishment."

Earlier, the boy's father said that his son was afraid of being caught. Sergeant Derek Amer said: "I inspected the punishment book and established that Raymond had never been caught before. He had nothing to fear at school except the normal punishment for playing truant."

The boy had become upset after his teenage girl friend moved to live in Skegness

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Closer education links wanted for 16-19 group

By Our Education Correspondent

The present system of financial support for students aged 16 to 19 is "haphazard, discriminatory and totally beset by confusion", the National Union of Teachers says in a discussion document on the education and training for that age group, published today.

It calls for the harmonizing of the grants available from the Manpower Services Commission, educational maintenance awards from local authorities and unemployment and social security benefits to ensure that the financial arrangements encourage rather than inhibit young people from obtaining further education and training.

The union calls for the provision of a coherent framework of education and training services for the age group. Agencies such as industrial training boards, the Training Services Agency, and the Youth Opportunities Programme area boards had proliferated without proper coordinating machinery or the involvement of teachers' associations, it says.

The union believed that many more young people would participate in education and training if the Government, local education authorities, training boards and other agencies mounted "a systematic assault on all the impediments—institutional, attitudinal and financial—that conspire to prevent young people from obtaining access to education and training."

Although a strong supporter of sixth forms in schools, the union recognized the merits of sixth form or tertiary colleges. It wanted much closer cooperation between all kinds of institutions providing for 16 to 19 year olds.

It believed that the continuing existence of separate regulations for schools and further education colleges hindered the creation of the radical and flexible approach that was needed.

Former vicar assaulted boy

Magistrates at Callington, Cornwall, were told yesterday that the Rev Peter Cranch, aged 32, a bachelor, assaulted a boy of 14 during a camping holiday near Callington last October.

Mr Cranch, former Vicar of Christ Church, Torquay, Devon, was fined £500 with £50 costs after admitting indecently assaulting the boy.

The young bear the brunt of unemployment

By Our Labour Staff

A high level of unemployment is likely to lead to a "bitter and alienated" younger generation according to Youthaid, a pressure group concerned with youth unemployment.

In an introduction to the group's annual report, Clare Short, the group's director, said: "The present generation of adult workers grew up in a climate of full employment and an expanding welfare state."

"Unemployment is already intolerably high and will inevitably get worse, with little thought being given to the likely consequences."

The report suggests that the country's tolerance of current unemployment levels is partly due to the fact that young people are bearing the brunt.

It says that at the beginning of last year the unemployment rate among people under 25 was 10.4 per cent, while the rate among people aged between 35 and 44 was 3.6 per cent.

"We are also extremely alarmed to read of current rumours of threats to the level of unemployment benefit. It is hard to believe that any government could be so callous as to increase unemployment as a deliberate act of policy and at the same time cut benefits to the victims of that policy."

"We can only appeal to the Government to reconsider such a cruel and unjust proposal," the report says.

Fee of £30 a day urged for heavy lorries in London

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

Owners of heavy lorries should be made to pay up to £30 a day for them to travel in Greater London, and should generally pay £3,000 to £5,000 more in tax for each lorry over the next three years, the Campaign against the Lorry Menace (Calam) suggests in its evidence to the Armitage inquiry into lorries and the environment.

Lorries have been subsidized through rates and taxes and the heavy lorries subsidized by the smaller ones, argues Calam, an environmental umbrella group.

Its evidence also suggests six-monthly MoT tests of lorries; extensive bans at night (possibly by whole towns and cities); on lorries of more than 16 tons; and resistance to European Economic Community moves towards greater lorry weights.

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HOME NEWS

Fuel-laden jets near crash likely to boost call for curbs

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

A Boeing 707 airliner laden with 58 tons of fuel went through the boundary hedge while taking off from Luton airport, Bristol, crossed a main road at 5 and 10ft and caused damage worth £5,000 to the airport's approach-lighting system.

The incident, which was nearly a serious accident, is recorded in a bulletin published yesterday by the accident investigation branch of the Department of Transport, bound to bring calls for tighter controls on flights from British airports.

Alarm was expressed yesterday that a large transport aircraft can be allowed to leave without any checks being made on its weight and condition.

An official of Bristol corporation, owners of the airport, told me: "The responsibility for taking off is entirely that of the pilot under the Air Navigation Order."

The Department of Trade said: "We have had a great deal of difficulty in tracking down both the aircraft and the crew of this aircraft. According to the accident investigation department report, it had a Zaire registration, but the report ends by saying: 'There appears to be some doubt about the authenticity of the Zaire registration'."

The aircraft arrived at Luton

gate on September 21 and remained parked there until take-off on October 11, with the 540 daily parking charge being paid regularly. On October 11 a crew of three and one passenger arrived, and serviced and dispatched the flight.

"No copies of a fuel flight plan, load sheet or technical log were deposited with any ground service agency. It was not possible, therefore, to establish any details as regards the aircraft's take-off weight," the report says.

Watchers in the control tower saw the 707 become airborne just before the end of the paved runway. By that time one of them had pressed a switch to turn traffic lights on the A38 road running alongside the airport perimeter to red.

A piece of the aircraft's trailing edge flap broke away as it struck the hedge and the landing gear.

"The flight was advised of the occurrence immediately by Bristol tower and later, by London air traffic control, that pieces of honeycomb structure had been found by the airport authorities."

"The crew acknowledged this information, but stated they would continue with their flight to Kuwait, where the aircraft landed without incident. At Kuwait the crew carried out their own repairs to the flaps and then later departed for Bombay."

Transformed quarry wins world award

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

A disused quarry at Kilsyth, central Scotland, which has been restored as a recreation area, has won one of the world's premier landscaping awards.

Until last year Auchinstarry quarry was waterlogged, ravines had been abandoned, and there was work on a whinstone cliff ceased.

Under the land renewal programme financed by the Scottish Development Agency, the landscaping company of EFC (New Lands), Glasgow, moved in. In four months it transformed 15 acres into pleasant countryside, with a sandy beach, a trout-stocked lake, and a cliff for training rock climbers.

The scheme, which cost £14,000, was one of 300 entries for awards made by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, and received a special judges' award. It was the first time the prize had been given outside America, according to Mr. Norman Wilson, managing director of EFC.

A million gallons of water has been drained from the quarry and fish have been transferred to the Forth-Clyde canal. The lake bed has been reshaped and the quarry face, 90ft high, stands on a new water lock was formed with an island in the middle, and the area was completely revived.

Mr. Alistair Gilchrist, head of land renewal for SDA, said the area had many uses for fishermen, rock climbers, canoeists, and people who wished to enjoy a very pleasant view. The SDA, in four years since it was formed, has spent £76m on the Scottish environment.

International Carmen irks the French

From Our Own Correspondent
Edinburgh

A plan to revive the greatly acclaimed Edinburgh Festival production of *Carmen*, by the stock and accountancy on the stage of the Salle Favart, in Paris, where it was first performed, has run into trouble.

The original proposal was to use the same principals, headed by Teresa Berganza, the Spanish soprano, as *Carmen*, with Placido Domingo and Roger Moore as the principals, and the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Claudio Abbado, from Italy.

According to *Le Figaro*, the arrival in Paris of a Scottish production of a French opera with Spanish and Italian principals, an Italian conductor and an English orchestra has been greeted with less than enthusiasm.

The initial feeling was that Abbado should perform the opera with the choir and orchestra of the Palais Garnier, the main opera house in Paris. A strike was threatened at the Salle Favart if that did not happen.

Abbado declared he did not have time to rehearse the French musicians. The French replied that *Carmen* was so well known to them that rehearsal was unnecessary.

Mr. John Drummond, director of the Edinburgh Festival, yesterday said that the matter was still under discussion. If the Edinburgh Festival considered the French production was not a true representation of their *Carmen*, they would not agree to lease the scenery and costumes which were essential.

Architecture report

VAT may be stopping vital repairs to historic houses

By Charles McKean
Architectural Correspondent

There are good reasons for fearing that the VAT on building work will be a major factor in the decline of the repair and maintenance of historic houses. The rate of new building (combined with the introduction of new techniques and the use of increasingly expensive materials) is so low, and the rate of rehabilitation so poor that there is a strong chance that within the next 20 years there will be a new generation of houses in the state the old slums were in in the 1950s.

That is not a question of electioneering or social policy. It is a likelihood based on more than the weather, the hot summer and the very cold winter, and natural decay.

Buildings have seasons, like farms. They have various stages in life during which they need to be maintained and repaired. As surely as the sun rises and sets, they will need substantial repair work. At present the vast estates of speculatively built new houses are coming to the end of their first wind.

However, well maintained, the 1930s house is likely soon to require the replacement of rotten wood, particularly in windows and doors; the rebuilding of the chimney stack; repairs to gutters and repointing. If the building is 20 years older, more, then it will likely require more substantial work to the roof and the plumbing, if older than that, then damp-proofing and roof treatment may be necessary.

The aggregated costs of such work might be £5,000 for the average house, £4,500 for the 1910 house, and perhaps £6,000 to £8,000 for the turn-of-the-century house. However, the peculiar difficulties of poor maintenance, multi-occupation or vandalism will have commensurate increases in the costs of work.

Put against those figures the house is a high chance that a pre-war house is being bought by a first-time buyer in the first year of a recent Shelter survey in Birmingham showing that one council mortgagee in six was in trouble. The survey frequently stated that that state of affairs was that first-time buyers had not taken into their financial calculations the cost of furnishing and fitting the new dwelling (assessed at about £1,500).

Given those figures, how likely is it that first-time buyers will, in addition to fitting out their

new dwellings, be able to find another £2,500 to £4,000 to assess VAT on the building work? It is optional but highly necessary insulation measures? Not very likely at all.

All Department of the Environment's 1976 house condition survey showed that a rapidly rising percentage of houses were in need of repairs costing £2,000 or more, at 1975 prices, and that percentage was increasing rapidly in the last year.

What encouragement does the Government offer a harassed population in rapidly decaying property? It taxes it at 15 per cent. The Government is quite happy that it should earn revenue through VAT from people repairing their houses.

Indeed, when a plea was made to the Treasury for an exemption for historic houses, the reply came back that to make a special exemption might put at risk the Government's entire revenue from VAT on repairs to buildings at risk, which is a considerable sum.

To put it simply, to add 15 per cent VAT to the cost of repairs and maintenance is the fiscal equivalent of kicking a man when he is down. There is already evidence that the cost of repairs to historic houses is not being carried out because that additional charge has been the last straw.

There is other evidence that whereas a sensitive restorer might wish to repair an old house, the more he is exempt from the tax, the more he is exempt from the tax, since that is classed as new construction. The Government is really hard up, and the logic behind VAT on repairs is less the old theory that the cost of repairs is a messy tax and more that the Government is pushed for a few shillings, perhaps other methods of collecting the shillings might be suggested. One that comes to mind is a variation of the old Schedule A, whereby people could set the cost of repairs and maintenance to their buildings against their income tax.

Another method that suggests itself is the reintroduction of the old system of the discounting of interest on the one hand and new loans on the other, but as it is indiscriminate on the condition of the building.

WEST EUROPE

Spain faces difficulties in EEC, report says

Brussels, Jan 10.—Spanish industry will face more difficulties in adapting to the European Community than EEC companies will have in adjusting their presence in Spain, according to an independent research report.

The report, written for the EEC Commission by the private group European Research Associates, concludes that dismantling Spain's higher tariff and trade barriers means Spanish industrialists will have to make competitive.

However, Spain will benefit more from the removal of trade barriers with Portugal, which with Spain hopes to join the Community in 1983. Greece becomes the tenth member at the start of next year.

Surveying 13 sectors of Spanish industry from steel and shipbuilding to textiles and toys, the report says Spain must improve its productivity and concentrate on high technology. In the past three years demand in Spain has been so weak that many companies have had to export at a loss, it adds.

Schmidt advice: Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said in an interview published today that Spain will suffer in the short-term but profit in the long-term from membership of the European Community.

Herr Schmidt, who visited Madrid this week, told the newspaper *El Pais* that the Spanish people should be informed about the difficulties of joining the Community so as to avoid nasty surprises.

EEC membership would open European markets to Spanish companies, he said, "but on the other hand, when the customs barriers have been removed, the powerful and big companies are going to invade the Spanish market and compete hard, often leaving Spanish companies on the sidelines."

He said the government, commercial firms and unions should brace for this competition by adopting the latest production and marketing techniques.

"I understand perfectly that Spain wants to be a full member of the Common Market quickly, because this will give access to agricultural, regional and social funds," he added.—Reuters.



Watchful riot policemen going to the aid of wounded comrades shot in Ajaccio.

Call for general strike after Corsica deaths

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, January 10

The occupation of an hotel in Ajaccio by Corsican nationalists degenerated in the course of last night into bloodshed. At least 11 people have been shot dead, a riot policeman, a young woman and a young man. Five other persons, including two riot police, have been injured, three of them seriously.

Today the hotel was still occupied by about 20 separatists who were holding 10 hotel guests as hostages. The area around the hotel continues to be sealed off by riot police, and reinforcements of gendarmes have been sent out from Bastia.

The riot policeman was shot in cold blood about 11 pm last night by a young man who stepped out of a group of 20 persons exchanging insults with police across a barrier near the prefecture. He drew a pistol and fired his first shot killed a policeman instantly. Further shots injured two others.

The young woman was shot dead near the citadel, as she drove past a group of riot police. A woman beside her in the car was seriously injured. The police officer who fired too quickly. The young

man was shot at the other end of the town, apparently while trying to force his way past a police barrier.

Although it is late in the day to talk of mediation and negotiation, and the Government, in the person of M. Christian Bonnet, Minister of the Interior, has firmly rejected both, the Bishop of Ajaccio and the mayor each spent several hours at the prefecture attempting to find a peaceful way out of the situation.

About 300 students of the Lycée Fesch staged a silent sit-down this morning in front of the prefecture. At a joint meeting 21 political and trade union organisations decided to call for a general strike throughout Corsica. Among their demands are a stay to all judicial proceedings, the prosecution of members of anti-autonomist groups (who were the starting point of the whole tragic train of events), and the immediate opening of negotiations.

In Paris the Socialist Party has tabled a written question to the Prime Minister in the National Assembly on the events in Corsica, and the refusal of the Prefect of Ajaccio to allow a delegation of local personalities to seek a peaceful solution.

The Communists demand the withdrawal of "all forces of repression", and condemn the Government's refusal to tackle the real problems in Corsica. The CPDT trade union organisation considers that the Government has "a grave responsibility in the constant deterioration of the situation".

M. Bonnet, the Minister of the Interior, emphasised in a television broadcast, that there would never be any negotiations with kidnappers, who are common law criminals. Justice would be equal for all, including the police who killed the young man and young woman, if it were established that they were guilty of a misdeed.

"Justice is one and one only. It does not know a few weights and measures," he said. He vigorously denied that there were any unofficial police or strong arm groups in France. Speaking in television to the Bishop of Ajaccio, who had asked him to "think more of human life than of legality," the minister replied that it was his duty not to negotiate. While he was anxious to have human life and was open to certain

proposals. "To respect legality is to save many lives tomorrow."

Twelve out of 28 persons detained by the police in various parts of southern Corsica since last Sunday have been transferred to Paris and will be charged before the Court for State Security. However, the Prefect of Southern Corsica told a press conference that he had set free five of the 21 persons detained by the police at the village of Bastelica.

"We hope reason will prevail," he said. "That is why we have allowed access to the hotel by persons who want to try to find a solution, in the same way as we have allowed food to be sent to the occupants of the hotel."

M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, said in Paris today that he did not think that there were any "trends towards autonomy" in France. "There can be some itch for autonomy, but French regions and provinces are attached to national unity."

He added, however, that "it will be necessary in coming years to increase the decentralisation of responsibilities and the centralization of decisions."

M Barre unrepentant over budget tactics

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 10

The cascade of Government motions of confidence, countered by a series of Opposition motions of no confidence, in the French National Assembly according to the prescribed ritual.

The Communist and Socialist motions on the revenue part of the 1980 budget were put to the vote after the 24-hour delay and were predictably defeated. M. Raymond Barre, just as predictably, resorted to Article 49 of the Constitution for the eighth time since last November, to get approval of the budget without the support of the Opposition.

Another 24-hour delay will supervene before tomorrow's voting on two more Opposition motions. They will also be lost, as the Gaullists will not support them.

If no unpredictable hitch occurs, the budget should go up to the Senate early next week and be adopted by the assembly at the end of the week.

Like Edith Piaf, the famous song M. Barre has made it clear that he has no regrets—least of all his repeated use of the procedural device of Article 49 to get essential legislation, including the budget, voted by the Government majority.

On Tuesday, in combative form, he disposed of the three main charges levelled against him by the Opposition—that the Government had no budget and national life would collapse; that the Government had no majority; and that the Government had been censured by the Constitutional Council for abusing Article 49.

On December 27, he said, Parliament had empowered the Government to go on voting taxes; the majority existed because neither of the parties which made it up had voted for a motion of censure; and that he would do so; and, far from condemning the Government, the Constitutional Council regretted that the Government had not used Article 49 more often.

"I therefore sin by moderation rather than by excess, and the lesson, I can assure you, has been taken to heart."

The Prime Minister ended by saying to the Opposition leaders: "Things are better than you say."

It will have taken six applications of Article 49 by the Government and 14 motions of censure by the Opposition since Christmas to get the 1980 budget through Parliament on the second round. There has been practically no discussion, save by Opposition members, and the Government has emerged from the different commission.

This absence of debate and the approval of important Bills without a vote is an unhealthy situation which discredits Parliament. The Prime Minister argues that he is not responsible for this state of affairs, which has been forced on him by the Gaullist party.

Extradition faces Mafia suspect

From Our Own Correspondent
Palermo, Jan 10

The Palermo district attorney's office has approved an American request for the extradition of Salvatore Zizzo, a suspected Mafia man, who allegedly had a key role in a narcotic traffic between Europe and the United States.

The extradition request was relayed to Italy by Judge Riccardo Arca. It was now up to a local court to rule whether to accept the district attorney's recommendation or reject it.

In the extradition request, Zizzo is accused of belonging to a gang that has been active in Sicily since the arrest of the late boss, Don Calisto Tanzi, in 1976. The operation was allegedly run jointly by the Sicilian Mafia and the Cosa Nostra of America.

Police in Palermo held in Zizzo's arrest four months ago. He has long been described by police as the "godfather" of Palermo, a large agricultural town near here.

Police said that one of Zizzo's "friends", named as Filippo Puleo, was arrested in 1978 after they found 11lb of pure heroin in his car.—AP.

Reforms shelved to save Belgian coalition

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 10

Mr. Wilfried Martens, the beleaguered Belgian Prime Minister, succeeded today in patching up the quarrel between Flemings and French-speakers within his cumbersome six-party coalition.

However, the Government's life was extended, at the price of shelving long-awaited constitutional reforms, which many Belgian observers consider to be essential if Belgium is to survive as a state.

Mr. Martens's coalition was brought to the point of collapse because the French-speakers' Democratic Front, the militant Brussels-based party, from French-speaking Wallonia, threatened to walk out.

They claimed that the Flemish Christian Democrats, who also form part of the coalition, were not prepared to accept the French-speakers' control over two out of the country's three regions: a division of power that would not fairly reflect the relative demographic and economic weight of the two communities.

Mr. Martens's answer to this impasse was to accept the rebuff of the French-speaking parties—is to water down the devolution reforms still further.

Writer replaces champion of gold

From Charles Hargrave
Paris, Jan 10

M. Jean Dutoit, journalist, social critic and author of several best-sellers, was today solemnly received as a member of the French Academy where he succeeded Jacques Rueff, the celebrated economist who advocated a return to the gold standard.

No respecter of persons, and even less of contemporary fashions, an enemy of all bombast, M. Dutoit has a way of defining all the false pretensions and exposing all the false idols of his contemporaries.

"To be only a man of letters nowadays," he declared, "when people respect only scientists and machines, is a very poor status. Because a writer is not 'useful' in the sense given nowadays to the word, I had the impression throughout my life of being an anachronistic animal, whose species had practically disappeared, in an age of technicians, salesmen, and mass."

M. Dutoit felt a sort of wolf, not one of those that devoured innocent lambs, but a poor beast without legend and without status, living by hook or by crook, and more often bitten than licked by its fellow beasts, leading a solitary life far from the wassal of humanity."

Can one imagine a wolf in the Conseil d'Etat, a wolf minister, archbishop or general? This prompts laughter, but does not seem laughable to the Academy. It is the only place in the world where a wolf can be welcomed, fêted, honoured like a valuable and admirable being.

M. Dutoit felt quite incongruous in the "palace of immor-

Hongkong faces growth in illegal video recordings

From Our Own Correspondent
Hong Kong, Jan 10

Authorities here have closed a massive trade in pirated records and tapes, but now face a new threat from illegal video cassette recordings, officials said today.

The other main prong of the opposition is the left, which is Syria shows the clear signs of years of secret-service and police intervention. It is split and weak, although it is making an attempt to revive.

For the moment, the leftists seem to support the Brotherhood against the regime. "The important thing is to topple this Government," one leftist explained. Then we will see what happens. Communists with relations between the left and the ayatollahs in Iran are frequent.

But Mr. Assad is no Shah. Indeed, his relations with the ayatollahs are excellent. And his decade in power to date has shown him to be an adept political operator.

A spokesman for the customs copyright protection unit said reports had already been received from Interpol of illegal video cassettes, made in Hong Kong, being found abroad.

He added that although this industry was still in its infancy it was a big problem when video recordings became cheaper.—Reuters.

OVERSEAS

Sectarian challenge to regime in Syria

From A Special Correspondent
Aleppo

Monitoring out steadily in the late afternoon. Nobody seems much concerned—residents of this northern Syrian trading city of one million people say that it is almost a daily occurrence. Later, we learn that an army officer and a secret-service man have been killed that same morning. Presumably the afternoon shots were some kind of retaliation.

Evening the streets fall silent early, and only the lone forms of secret-service men are to be seen at key street corners.

Here in the cities of northern Syria, traditional the breeding ground of opposition movements—adherents of the regime of President Assad seem to be living on their nerves.

In June, a terror commando of the extreme right-wing Muslim Brotherhood moved down in cold blood about 50 officer cadets attending classes at the artillery college near here. Since then, killings and counter-killings have continued.

But, the Ba'ath Party and the extensive secret-service organisations headed by its leaders are at a disadvantage. The gunmen of the Brotherhood—often young men who received their military training in the Syrian Army without trace into Syria's extensive urban population.

A Damascus illustration of this. There, the protocol chief at the President's guest palace received a lush new flat after his son identified some Brotherhood hit-men to the police. Only chief rode home from work on a full 40-seater bus, a man behind him asked: "How is the new flat?"—and fired two bullets into his head.

None of the other bus passengers was able to remember the appearance of the killer, who had calmly walked away.

Here in Aleppo, one trader told me that there are whole areas of the city the secret service is unable to control. He recalled recently seeing a Brotherhood supporter openly handing out leaflets in the city's sprawling market. When a single secret-service man approached, the leaflet carrier promptly hid the leaflet and him, telling him to take it and read its lesson to his masters—and this in a highly centralized state where the Brotherhood has been outlawed since 1963.

The Brotherhood's main message is one of sectarian dissatisfaction. Its supporters are members of the majority Sunni community who resent the domination in power of President Assad's own Alawite Muslim sect, which accounts for 10 per cent of the Syrian population.

Not far from the city centre, members of Aleppo's thriving Christian population are building a magnificent new cathedral. Not to be outdone, the Muslims are building a mosque right opposite, with the minaret just topping the cathedral spire.

Opposition to the Assad regime seems much wider than mere Sunni dissatisfaction. Government and foreign policies also come in for their share of the criticism which is openly voiced here.

The owner of a small plastics factory complains that government disputes with other Arab states have cut his markets drastically while sectarianism from the state sector in home markets has forced him to leave his workforce in recent months.

A leftist student asks rhetorically how the people can be expected to flock to the Camp David conspiracy (a common government slogan), when they still have to wait in line for the unheated bread which is the staple of their daily diet.

A disaffected civil servant says the Muslim Brotherhood could sweep to power if it only presented some political programme in addition to its sectarian activities.

The other main prong of the opposition is the left, which is Syria shows the clear signs of years of secret-service and police intervention. It is split and weak, although it is making an attempt to revive.

For the moment, the leftists seem to support the Brotherhood against the regime. "The important thing is to topple this Government," one leftist explained. Then we will see what happens. Communists with relations between the left and the ayatollahs in Iran are frequent.

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OVERSEAS

Sandbag defences in Tabriz as troops seal off radio station

Tabriz, Jan 10.—Troops today sealed off access roads to the hilltop radio station in this north-western city where fierce clashes occurred yesterday between rival supporters of Iran's two senior ayatollahs in which eight people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

The troops placed sandbags at strategic points to defend the Government-held station against any renewed attack by followers of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, the local religious leader.

Despite appeals for calm from the Ayatollah, his supporters were involved in day-long battles yesterday with Revolutionary Guards and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini, the revolutionary leader.

There was heavy shooting near the radio station yesterday as supporters of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari tried to capture it for the third time in a month.

The town centre was shelled by the opposition Muslim People's Republican Party (MPRP) dug in behind sandbags in front of their party headquarters, pelted by bullets during yesterday's fighting.

Defenders have renamed the building "Bastion of the people" after Ayatollah Shariat-Madari's statement last week that the MPRP was now defunct and that he would not support it if it resumed its activities.

Several hundred people stood outside the headquarters in freezing temperatures today.

Ayatollah Shariat-Madari's Turkish-speaking followers in Tabriz and the rest of East Azerbaijan province are seeking the removal of Government-appointed local officials and demanding greater autonomy.

They also support Ayatollah Shariat-Madari's opposition to Iran's Islamic constitution, which has given wide powers to Ayatollah Khomeini.

Sources in the holy city of Qom said the two ayatollahs, together with two other ayatollahs, were likely to have a meeting on the Tabriz situation within the next 48 hours.

Representatives of liberation movements holding a conference in Tehran went to Qom today to visit Ayatollah Khomeini. They included Mr. Abu Jihad of the Palestine Liberation Organization and second in command in Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization.

They were accompanied by a group of the students who have been holding the American hostages at the United States embassy here for 68 days. The students sponsored and organized the liberation movement conference.

Dr. Waldheim criticized: Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, twin sister of the deposed Shah of Iran, today criticized Dr. Khomeini, the United Nations Secretary-General for his recent criticism of her brother's rule.

In her public reaction to Dr. Waldheim's turbulent three-day trip to Iran last week, she said: "As a former delegate to the United Nations, I must express my dismay at

Secretary-General Waldheim's recent comments."

Princess Ashraf said she was surprised by Dr. Waldheim's statements about alleged human rights violations in Iran under the Shah and added: "Why has he waited so long to voice his criticism?"

In a press release, she said Dr. Waldheim, by his current course of action, has ignored the real problem, the real violation of human rights: the imprisonment of 50 innocent Americans by militants in Tehran.

The Princess, who was an Iranian delegate to the United Nations for 10 years, said Dr. Waldheim had never complained about abuse of human rights on the numerous occasions that they met. "Was Dr. Waldheim insincere in his praise of the Shah, his government and me?" her statement said.

Noting that Iran under the Shah was a founding member of the United Nations, she added: "Secretary-General Waldheim appears to view the Pahlavi government today as an aberration of the Shah's forces."

Princess Ashraf said that through a "Nazis-like propaganda campaign... of lies and more lies, the current regime is trying to bring the world to its knees."

Dr. Waldheim should have asked more questions about the mutilated people who were "paraded" before him by Iran's revolutionary rulers as alleged victims of the Shah's forces, she said.

"The people of the world cannot continue to be duped by cheap public relations stunts. For all we know, many of these people could be victims of accidents or people with birth defects."

During his visit, Dr. Waldheim promised a group of Iranians that he would press for a United Nations inquiry into abuses that are alleged to have taken place under the Shah's rule.

He was not allowed to see Ayatollah Khomeini, who commands the allegiance of the militants who have held the United States embassy in Tehran since November 4, neither did he meet any of the American hostages during his stay.

The Princess asked Dr. Waldheim why he listened to the "so-called grievances of the Khomeini regime while continuing to ignore the families of more than 600 Iranians who were summarily executed without fair trials, and the countless unknown victims who have suffered a similar fate. What about their human rights and their grievances?"

The statement, released by Mr. Richard Armitage, a spokesman in New York, of the Pahlavi Family added: "Does Dr. Waldheim really hope that by falsely condemning the Pahlavis he will curry favour with the current regime? Is he so naive to believe that by swallowing the current regime's lies, their terrorist acts will stop? If he does, the world as well as the United Nations is in serious trouble."—Reuter.

Lesotho's cooler relations with South Africa put 771 in wired-off limbo

From Eric Marsden Johannesburg, Jan 10

On the outskirts of the Orange Free State town of Bethlehem, 771 exiles from the mountainous kingdom of Lesotho are living in tents in a fenced-off compound, unhappy and uncertain of their future, which depends on the outcome of a diplomatic struggle between South Africa, Lesotho and the United Nations.

The exodus from villages in the Buthe-Buthe district of Northern Lesotho began at the end of November after reports of conflict there between militants of the outlawed Basutoland Congress Party (BCP), and the Government's paramilitary police.

By Christmas about 500 people had fled across the Caledon river into South Africa. A steady trickle has continued and the Bethlehem camp now holds 109 men, 244 women and 418 children.

South Africa regards the exiles as refugees and last month Mr. R. P. Botha, the Foreign Minister, asked for help from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. At present they are being fed by the Orange-Vaal administration and have received gifts of clothing from the Free State.

The Lesotho Government refuses to regard them as refugees and to call on them to return. It alleges that many were abducted by BCP militants and forced to cross the river, where they were put in lorries and driven to Bethlehem camp.

South African police escort. This is denied by South African officials who also reject the allegation of collusion with the rebels.

Lesotho, a land-locked nation with a population of 1,300,000, which is economically dependent on South Africa, has, until recently, enjoyed Pretoria's support in spite of frequent attacks on apartheid by Prime Leabua Jonathan, its Chief Minister.

Mr. C. D. Molapo, Lesotho's Foreign Minister, disclosed that on December 31 he wrote to the United Nations saying that their High Commissioner for Refugees should have sent an observer to visit the people in the Bethlehem camp. He claimed that the South African Red Cross, which was looking after them, was not unbiased.

The Lesotho police has accused the BCP of abducting 197 families from the Buthe-Buthe area. It said a census by chiefs

had shown that 263 families had left the area since the end of November, but 66 of these were known to be in the Qwaqwa black homeland.

It is difficult to judge the conflicting allegations because of obstacles in both countries. At Bethlehem the exiles are kept in their fenced compound and, for security reasons, are not allowed into the town. Nor are journalists allowed to talk to them, except in the presence of one senior white official who is only occasionally available.

There is a police guard on the camp.

In Lesotho, journalists who have driven to Buthe-Buthe have been turned back from the mountain villages, having been told that they were in an operational area.

Mr. Rakhetla claimed the man behind the unrest in Buthe-Buthe was Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle, the outlawed leader of the BCP who is believed to live in Zambia. He alleged that Mr. Mokhehle had been seen by Lesotho agents entering the central police station in Johannesburg and having meals with South African officials in Pretoria. "We are certain he is in collusion with South Africa."

He added that there had been a change of policy by Pretoria toward the Government of Chief Jonathan, the South African being surprised when Lesotho began to establish diplomatic relations with socialist countries, by its refusal to recognize Lesotho's independence and its allegations of the killing of Basotho people in South Africa.

It had evicted its support to Mr. Mokhehle, he claimed, and was "plotting for revolution in Lesotho". Some of the explosives being used by the rebels were believed to have come from mines in South Africa.

The rebels also had Russian-made equipment "captured from Swaziland and the Patriotic Front and passed to Mokhehle's men to give a false impression of Russian aid."

The political background to the strife is that Mr. Mokhehle's Basutoland Congress Party defeated Chief Jonathan's party in two elections out of three before independence. It was also reported to be leading in the first post-independence election in 1970 when Chief Jonathan, suspended the constitution, arrested Mr. Mokhehle and ruled by decree for three years.

The Prime Minister is now confident he can win another election and recently announced that he plans to hold one but without giving a date.



Mrs. Jean Casselman Wadds, the new Canadian High Commissioner, who arrived in London yesterday, with her deputy, Mr. C. Hardy.

Only two Russians remain at Aswan

From Christopher Walker Aswan, Jan 10

Ironically for a summit meeting overshadowed by the Soviet threat in the Middle East, the latest series of talks between President Sadat of Egypt and Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, is taking place almost literally in the shadow of the greatest monument to Soviet-Egyptian cooperation, the Aswan Dam.

Twenty years ago this week, the late President Nasser formally inaugurated work on the Soviet-designed project which has changed the character of the Nile and at one time employed almost 2,000 Soviet technicians and advisers.

A sign of the shifting pattern of alliances in the Middle East is that only two of the Russian team still remain, living an isolated existence and working on contracts which will expire when the lake created by the dam reaches its crest. This should have happened already, but has been delayed by a number of low annual floods.

In the bustling streets of Aswan, whatever affection there once was for the Soviet connexion has been replaced by enthusiasm for the peace process and the American photo, who are flying joint training exercises with the Egyptian Air Force.

Typical was the comment of the manageress of the local carpet bazaar: "Tell the people that we love Jimmy Carter. He has brought an end to the fighting."

Controversial from the outset, the dam has reached its twentieth anniversary without proving the unmitigated disaster "but was once widely predicted. An artificial mountain two and three quarters miles long and 364ft high, it has already paid its way by providing cheap electricity and averting two potential crop disasters in 1972 and 1973.

Mr. Fawzi Helwa, who for the past four years has been chairman of the High Dam Authority, said that the dam's side effects were all anticipated and have been studied continuously. The project has been very beneficial for Egypt.

International observers acknowledge that the Egyptians would have had to take drastic action to develop a water storage system to meet the agricultural needs of the expanding population. The alternative, a series of weirs stretching deep into Africa as far as Uganda, would have been both difficult in practice and unsatisfactory politically.

Until the dam was completed, almost half the Nile's annual flood was lost to the sea. Now that it is completed and its presence accepted, there is a tendency for critics to forget the previously capricious behaviour of the river.

Among the most serious problems which have arisen during its brief existence have been the forced displacement of many thousands of Nubian families, the loss of an annual 17,000-ton silt catch in the Nile delta, the waterlogging of crops and soil erosion.

Egyptian officials maintain that these have been far outweighed by the economic benefits and by the fact that Egypt can at last exercise control over water, its most precious commodity. Some of the worst side effects predicted, including the possible spread of bilharzia, the crippling eye disease, have not materialized.

By generating cheap power on a huge scale, the dam has changed the character of Aswan, the capital of Upper Egypt. The population has swollen to more than 250,000, industrial projects have mushroomed and the climate has become more moist.

Aswan remains one of Egypt's most popular winter resorts. 400 tourists had to be moved from its leading hotel to make room for the Israeli delegation—and has managed to maintain the lazy calm which had long distinguished it from other Egyptian cities.

Pessimists, however, still think of what would happen if the dam burst. More than 150,000 million cubic metres of water would then be released, endangering life and property throughout the country.

China's purged head of state back in favour

Peking, Jan 10.—Liu Shaoqi (Liu Shao-chi), China's former head of state purged during the Cultural Revolution, was prominently referred to as "comrade" in the official press today, a sign that his posthumous rehabilitation may be announced soon.

Two Communist Party newspapers included Liu's name in a list of eight leaders, including Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai, on their front pages. Liu, believed to have died at least five years ago, has not been accorded such an honour for 13 years, except for one mention in a political magazine last year.

Purged 12 years ago with Mr. Deng Xiaoping, the Deputy Prime Minister, Liu was the Cultural Revolution's mildest victim. He had earlier ranked second only to Chairman Mao.

The rehabilitation of Liu, previously accused of being pro-Soviet, is seen as one of a series of measures aimed at negating the effects of the Cultural Revolution. It has been expected for more than a year.

Today's report, said his portrait had been hung alongside other leaders at an exhibition in south-west China. The exhibition, at the town of Zunyi, had been organized to commemorate the forty-fifth anniversary this week of an historic Politburo meeting there in 1935 which elected Mao as party Chairman.

The report quoted visitors to the exhibition as saying that it "reflected the history of the party honestly and in line with the original facts".

Liu's photograph reappeared in museums for the first time last autumn.—Reuter.

Demand for S African withdrawal expected

Beira, Mozambique, Jan 10.—The presidents of three African "front line" states met in this Mozambique port today and were expected to demand the removal of South African troops from Rhodesia.

Conference sources said they expected the black leaders to urge Britain to call for the withdrawal of South African troops from Rhodesian territory and to protest over the use of Rhodesian security forces against guerrilla fighters not observing the ceasefire.

The meeting was attended by President Samora Machel of Mozambique, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

In Lusaka, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, co-leader of the Patriotic Front, said that the main reason South African troops were in Rhodesia was to protect Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former Prime Minister, intimidate innocent people and cause chaos before the February elections.

Speaking at a diplomatic club luncheon here in his honour, Mr. Nkomo claimed that South African troops were all over Rhodesia.

But in Salisbury Bishop Muzorewa indicated support for the continued presence of South African troops in Rhodesia.

Air link: A British Airways jumbo jet landed at Salisbury today to reopen a service cut 14 years ago when Rhodesia declared itself independent from Britain. A Rhodesian-born pilot, Captain Michael Murray, whose initial training was in the Rhodesian Air Force, was at the controls.—UPI, AP and Reuter.

Despite the ceasefire, Rhodesian farmers keep up precautions:

Whites take no chances

From Nicholas Ashford Mpepete, Southern Rhodesia Jan 10

The white farmers of Mpepete, a lush agricultural valley about 70 miles north of Salisbury, are taking no chances.

Although the ceasefire has now been in operation for a week and shows increasing signs of being effective, they are continuing to take all the precautions against ambush or attack which they had got used to adopting during the past seven years of war.

They do not move away from their homes without a gun in their hands. They do not travel on the thin ribbon of road which connects them with Bindura, the nearest sizable town, after 4 p.m. They still spend the nights sheltering behind their security fences with a rifle by their bedside.

It is not hard to understand why they are being so cautious. Mpepete is sandwiched between two tribal trust lands, Chiweshe and Madziva, which had become strongholds for the Patriotic Front guerrillas in recent years and which were used as launching pads for attacks into the valley.

"We had 18 landmine incidents in the course of six months," Mr. Pat Taft, a local farmer, said. "Fortunately the municipality then decided to tar the road so there have been fewer landmines since then."

However the guerrillas had recently started using a new type of mine which was attached to a tree and activated by a wire stretched across the road. Six weeks ago one of Mr. Taft's neighbours was hit by one of these.

"I heard a tremendous bang and went to see what had hap-

pened. I found the blast had partially destroyed his mine-protected Land-Rover. He was terribly injured and had two inches of brain oozing from his skull."

Mr. Taft's experiences of the guerrilla war are probably typical of farmers in that area. In the early stages of the fighting his house came under attack. "They fired 175 rounds into our bedrooms. The house was also hit by mortars. Fortunately no one was hurt."

Then his wife was caught in an ambush. "There were 18 bullet holes in her Peugeot and one in her foot," he described almost nonchalantly.

Last August a group of guerrillas carried out a series of attacks on his workers' compound and in one shot destroyed two children, three women and two men.

Work on rebuilding their burned huts has still not been completed and the workers have been living in one of Mr. Taft's barns for the past four months. "Amazingly only about six of my workers decided to leave after that incident," he said.

Mr. Taft's farm lies alongside the Chiweshe tribal trust land. On some evenings the guerrillas would light a beacon on top of one of the hills there as a marker for their colleagues moving in from across the Mozambique border, 30 miles away. "This has been one of the most active areas in the country, and I am certainly not going to relax until I see which way things go after the elections."

In fact there has been virtually no guerrilla activity in the area since the ceasefire started being implemented three weeks ago.

Zanu seeks election funds in Europe

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Jan 10

A delegation of the Zimbabwe African Nation Union, with Mrs. Sally Mugabe—wife of Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Zanu leader—among its members, began a European tour today with an appeal for \$50m needed for development and resettlement programmes in Southern Rhodesia.

Members of the Zanu delegation said they also needed funds for the election campaign

in which the party aimed to set up offices in every town, village and mining compound. "By explanation and persuasion, we must educate people to forget about the past and work together to achieve a united Zimbabwe," Mrs. Mugabe said. "I hope in doing so we shall be able to relax the minds of many people who have been affected in one way or another."

Mr. Simba Makoni, Zanu's European representative, said he could see the likelihood of

Zanu and Mr. Joshua Nkomo's Zapu cooperating on the political side. He and his colleagues were critical of Lord Soames, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, for permitting South African troops to remain in the country. If the Lancaster House agreement collapsed, the British would be to blame, he said.

"There are a few things to be tidied up in Maputo, Mozambique, before we go to Salisbury."

On January 1st, 1980 Iveco (UK) Limited was created.

Iveco

Fiat, OM, Lancia, Unic and Magirus Deutz united to form Iveco. Together they represent 350 years of manufacturing experience. Working as one to broaden their research, they produce a highly specialized range of trucks and buses that are above all safe, reliable and economical to run. Truly a sharing of traditions, resources and technological know-how. And an international dealer network with years of experience working alongside hauliers.

Now in Great Britain

On January 1st, 1980, Iveco (UK) Limited was created from Fiat Commercial Vehicles Limited and Magirus-Deutz (Great Britain) Limited. This further move enables Iveco to reinforce its position in the U.K. The trucks and networks of both Fiat and Magirus-Deutz will thus get a stronger support: greater efficiency, better service and better availability of spare parts. From now on, running Fiat and Magirus-Deutz trucks will be easier still for you, with Iveco's broadened organisation behind you.



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AFGHANISTAN

Five resistance groups agree only on being anti-communist

From Ian Murray Peshawar, Jan 10

While observers say that up to 60 different groups are fighting against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, there are basically only five large organisations. They all have their spokesmen in this old garrison town.

The five groups range from fanatical Muslims who would feel more than at home in the Iran of the Ayatollah Khomeini, to the moderate Muslims who are prepared to agree to a new constitution for a new Afghanistan, which would include opposition parties. They all want an Islamic new country and the one thing they all agree they would ban is any form of Communism.

It is their united stand against communists in general, and Russians in particular, which classes them as allies. In many respects, in the best Afghan tradition, they are deadly enemies.

In talking to their leaders, their stories appear very similar. They all seem to have grown up after the arrival of President Taraki in power in April, 1978. It was then that the trickle of refugees began to arrive in Pakistan—a trickle which has become a flood.

It was then that the different groups of dissidents began to organise in earnest. Afghans are historically inclined to rebel against outside authority, as the British discovered to their cost in three wars. Indeed, it is the success they scored against the British, a century ago which leads today's Afghan to believe that even the Russian superpower is not invincible.

Added to that self-confidence is the fact that Islamic leaders have declared the fight against the Soviet Union a holy war. "This means that anyone who kills a Russian is meant to be a martyr," says a spokesman. "The highest estate of Islam and anyone killed in fighting becomes a martyr saint."

Abdullah Mujaddidi, son of the leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front, puts it like this: "For us there is nothing left except to fight. We will fight on until only one Afghan is left, until the last drop of our blood has dried. We shall show the Russians how big a mistake they have made in taking over our country. We have never been conquered as a nation."

Maybe we will not succeed. But we believe that the international defeat of the Russians will start in Afghanistan."

Sayed Hussain Gailani.

nephew of the founder of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, is a field commander on a few days leave. "Now we are fighting a superpower we are more united. We are fighting for Islam and against the foreign invader."

According to him, the whole philosophy of the war had changed since the Soviet intervention. Spiritually and psychologically the people were more united. Militarily they had changed tactics from a full-scale offensive against the Afghan Army to guerrilla hit-and-run operations against the Russians.

These military leaders, in exile agreed that the big shortage was of bullets. While guns were largely available and some helicopters had even been captured, ordinary cartridges were in short supply.

They were available from local gunsmiths but these bullets were unsafe, inaccurate and liable to give off tell-tale puffs of smoke. To buy proper bullets it was essential to trade with the tribal lands, which are outside effective Pakistani jurisdiction.

The price of the bullets is increasing almost daily. The normal price being quoted was about 30 rupees (£1.50) for a 303 round. Generally, the cost of weapons is said to have risen 10 times over the past two years.

The money to pay for this is mostly coming, according to the rebel groups, from the Gulf states. It is given either as a contribution to the different countries, or as a contribution from expatriate Afghan workers.

Further money, although not much, is raised in the form of a tax from people living in the areas the rebel groups claim to control. These areas, they say, "have a civil administration and they claim they are entire districts where no Soviet troops have yet dared to come."

Even so, these rebel leaders seemed realistic enough about their prospects in fighting the Russians to the death. They would request the fact that without international aid they were "probably doomed to defeat. Still they would fight on."

"We don't want to give the Russians the impression they are welcome in Afghanistan," said one. "We are fighting against Soviet aggression and we want the freedom-loving people of the world to come to our assistance."

Mr Carter is chasing votes, Pravda says

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Jan 10

President Carter was ready to pay any price and sacrifice any ideas to keep himself afloat in the White House, Pravda said today.

Commenting on the President's measures announced in response to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the paper said they worsened the international situation. Frustrated détente, but were nothing to do with the latest developments in Afghanistan.

The President's "dangerous steps" were directly linked to the presidential elections, the paper's New York correspondent said.

"One cannot help feeling that the direct attack on détente and on Soviet-American relations has been launched not by the President of the United States but by J. Carter, one of the presidential candidates, who played his last trump card in this vain way."

Pravda noted that Americans were now praising President Carter for firmness and leadership. But true firmness was shown not in overtures to right-wing forces or in a painful reaction to every move by the public opinion poll, but in a consistent principled political course.

"This is precisely what the Administration is lacking (and lacked before) by making one concession after another to reactionaries."

The article said there was nothing more cynical than the "affected concern" and outcry in the United States over developments in Afghanistan.

Today's commentary is part of the tough Soviet reaction to Mr Carter's moves against the Russians.

But in spite of tough worded commentaries, the Russians have not yet announced any retaliatory counter-measures against America, and are clearly trying to ride out the international outcry without over-reacting.

The average Russian has a good idea of this outcry from listening to foreign broadcasts. Most people have expressed fears that it will lead to a general tightening up and a cut-off in relations with the West in all fields.

To most patriotic Russians the whole Afghan affair is a sorry business which they regret. Their general reaction, however, is: "We don't mind fighting the Soviets. We just don't want war."



Afghan insurgents execute communist: This photograph, received yesterday from the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, bore a caption reading: "Two communist high school teachers arrested in the city of Farah near Kandahar City one month ago by the rebels from the Islamic Party of Afghanistan. The one on the right was later executed." Farah is in the extreme west of Afghanistan between Herat and Kandahar.

Deceptive calm in Afghan town

Continued from page 1

armoured personnel carriers had already come up from Jalalabad and cleared most of the blockade.

Tribesmen had fired out of the trees when the first civilian cars had stopped at the road block before dawn. They killed two people and wounded nine others, one in the back and chest. There was still a litter of glass across the highway but no one knew whether the tribesmen were bandits or whether they had mistaken the cars for military vehicles in the dark.

It was a salutary reminder that the Soviet-backed authorities in Afghanistan cannot even securely control the Khyber Pass, although one could not help noticing that the Afghan Army was still allowed to play an important role in operations.

The soldiers who checked our papers through the pass and manned the small concrete forts beside the gorge were all Afghan. Some of the tanks parked in the mountains outside

Jalalabad were Afghan, too, and only the Afghan Army patrols the streets of the town.

Jalalabad has had no electricity for five days now and the nightly curfew has just been extended from 8 pm until 4 am.

Much more strategically important is that during the night hours, when local people must be off the streets, the Soviet Army has been moving heavy armour through the town.

There are now 1,400 Russian troops with T54 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and tracked vehicles quartered in the Afghan Army barracks three miles west of Jalalabad on the road to Pakistan.

If the tribesmen continue their activities, therefore, and if the Afghan Army cannot bring their activities to a halt with new weapons, then the Russians will disarm the Afghan Army if it fails to keep the peace and that the Soviet forces will take a step to pacify the countryside.

In the past six days explosions have echoed over the town at night and two huge bombs have twice destroyed the

electric grid and transformers carrying power into the town. Jalalabad has had no electricity for five days now and the nightly curfew has just been extended from 8 pm until 4 am.

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Man with the world's worst refugee problem

From Ian Murray Peshawar, Jan 10

Mr Shamsur Ali is a man who has, in his own words, "the dubious honour" of being in charge of the biggest refugee problem in the world.

As Afghan refugee commissioner for the North-West Frontier province of Pakistan, he is responsible for the welfare of a known 342,076 people, plus a further 40,000 or so who have yet to register.

With 70,000 or more also in neighbouring Baluchistan province to the south, Pakistan, one of the poorer countries of the world materially, thus finds it self having to care for a refugee problem which in numbers alone is bigger than either Kampuchea or Sudan.

The commission offices are in an old single-storey building with a deep verandah dating from the heyday of the Raj. Mr Ali's office is a wood-paneled sanctuary for a man with nearly 400,000 human problems to deal with.

The near charts on the wall, showing the growth of the problem since about 14,000 refugees first arrived in April, 1978, to the current sorry figure, are in marked contrast to the untidiness of the problem.

Mr Ali's telephone never seems to stop ringing. Outside on the lawn 30 or more Afghan handmen wait impatiently in the shade of the trees to complain about their lack of tents. He has to find time to treat the press courteously because he knows only international sympathy can help his country.

And the problem is growing so quickly that it is difficult to quantify. About 50,000 refugees have come into Pakistan since the end of November. But then the passes are more closely guarded these days, and winter snows are certainly stopping many refugees from escaping.

Mr Ali seems resigned to things getting much worse. So, too, is the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). It has already earmarked nearly \$10m (£4.5m) up to next September for Afghan refugees, but that figure was decided on the assumption that only 130,000 Mr Ali believes the UNHCR is sympathetic to the idea of doubling its contribution.

The Pakistan Government did not really begin to do anything about the problem until April of last year, because Mr Ali says it did not want to upset relations with its Afghan neighbours.

But when the numbers reached 42,000 the commission was started and the Government agreed an allowance of 4 rupees a month for or 120 rupees a month to each registered refugee.

This ever-growing burden on the Pakistani Exchequer is being cut significantly from next Wednesday when the World Food Programme (WFP) begins supplying provisions worth 70 rupees a month to each refugee. The Pakistani contribution will then be reduced to only 50 rupees a month to be paid in cash.

Some refugees at the moment are using their money to rent accommodation because, as Mr Ali is the first to admit, shelter is of prime importance and there are just not enough tents and blankets to go round.

Some refugees have already died of cold, he says, tuberculosis, skin diseases, bronchitis and gastroenteritis are becoming more common.

Yet no extra medical aid can be provided by Pakistan, although the commission has begun to set up regional doctors with their own staffs to try to bring better control to the problem. With UNHCR money 25 schools are to be opened, using where possible Afghan teachers. Other projects include a rug-making scheme.

Mr Ali is well aware of the political overtones of the Afghan problem he is trying to contain. It is very difficult for us to distinguish between a guerrilla and a refugee when he comes over the border," he says. "We don't invite them to come in, they just come and we cannot physically keep a constant check on a 1,000-mile long border."

His problems have been understood by the WFP which originally said it would refuse to have any of its relief distributed less than 16 miles from the border so that guerrillas could not easily benefit from it.

After visiting the area their representative agreed that some of the 17 distribution points would have to be much closer than that.

The other political worry is the fact that many of the refugees come from tribes with feuds against people in the land they are seeking refuge in.

Mr Ali fears this could cause real trouble. He says he is making it a priority to try to group the refugees together in proper camp sites rather than allow the present rather haphazard system to continue.

"We must try to separate them from the local population," he says, "especially as we have to accept this problem will be with us now for two or three years and even more."

Mr Ali, who took over the job three months ago, has a long and distinguished career in the Pakistani civil service behind him and he has enough experience to be refreshingly realistic about the task he is trying to do.

"By the time we work out a programme it is out of date

Appointments Vacant also on page 20

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRONICS

NCR CHAIR OF ELECTRONICS AND MICROCOMPUTER SYSTEMS

The University, in conjunction with NCR Limited, has established a Chair in Electronics and Microcomputer Systems, the holder of which will direct a newly established Centre for Microprocessing. The Unit will contain a range of equipment to assist in the development of post-graduate research and the Professor of Electronics and Microcomputer Systems will have the overall responsibility of co-ordinating this and all microprocessing activities and developments in the University. The Unit will be supported by its own technical, research and secretarial staff.

The Chair will be held in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics, in the new building in Electronics and Microprocessing Systems leading to Honours Degrees. The Professor will be a member of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics and will be expected to assist in the further development of the teaching and research in electronics and in Microcomputer systems. It is also anticipated that the Professor will co-operate with local industry in promoting teaching and industrial development. The Department currently has one Chair, the Watson-Watt Chair of Electrical Engineering, the holder of which is Professor B. Makin, presently Head of the Department.

The post will be remunerated within the professional range for universities, the successful applicant being required to join the USS scheme, if not a member of this or of the ESSU scheme. Further particulars may be obtained from The Secretary, The University, Dundee DD1 4RN, with whom ten copies of an application should be lodged by 16 February, 1980. Please quote Reference EST/99/79C.

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC & TRAUMATIC SURGERY

Appointments are invited for the post of

SENIOR LECTURER

In the above Department, there will be an associated honorary appointment with the Tayside Health Board. For an appropriately qualified candidate this will be at Consultant level. There will be ample opportunities for the successful applicant to develop their special interest. There is already an active well-endowed research programme in human locomotion with facilities available throughout the research field of orthopaedic surgery. Other research areas can be developed in line with the Senior Lecturer's special interest. Applications may visit the University and related hospitals by contacting Professor George Morrison (telephone Dundee (0382) 22803, or Dundee 2325, Ext. 171).

Salary Scale (Consultant Status), £11,211 to £14,239. Superannuation under USS or continuation of existing FSSU or NHS arrangements. Grant towards removal expenses to Dundee.

Applications (14 copies) quoting Reference EST/102/79C and containing the names of three referees should be sent by 1st Feb. 1980, to The Secretary, The University, Dundee DD1 4RN; from whom Further Particulars can be obtained.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS STUDIES

PRINCIPAL LECTURER (REF BS-7)

The main duties of this post are to organise and deliver lectures for sandwich courses in Accounting, Finance, Economics, Law, Marketing, and Statistics.

The post requires a graduate, preferably with a postgraduate qualification in one of the above subjects, and a minimum of five years' experience in a similar post.

Salary Scale £10,140 to £12,140 per annum.

For further particulars and applications, please contact the Staff Officer, Polytechnic of the South Bank, Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Nottingham University Health Service

CRIPPS HEALTH CENTRE

Physician

The Health Service provides a wide range of medical services for the community, including the Criggs Health Centre, which is a major centre for the treatment of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

The Health Service is seeking a qualified physician to join the staff of the Criggs Health Centre.

For further particulars and applications, please contact the Staff Officer, Nottingham University Health Service, Nottingham, Notts.

Full details of this appointment may be obtained from the Staff Officer, Nottingham University Health Service, Nottingham, Notts.

Closing date for applications is 1st February, 1980. Ref. No. 714.

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which will become vacant in September 1980. This is an Independent School belonging to the Association of Governing Bodies of Girls' Public Schools. There are 500 girls between 5 and 18 which include 130 boarders. The School is Burnham Group 8 for salary purposes and a house is provided for the Head.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Berkhamsted Schools, Castle Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 2BB. Closing date for applications is 4th February, 1980.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES GENERAL SECRETARY

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The Royal College of Midwives is the only organisation which carries out professional, educational and trade union functions solely on behalf of midwives and the midwifery profession. Applications are invited for the post of GENERAL SECRETARY from persons who have the ability to represent midwives nationally and internationally in these spheres.

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Enquiries and application form from the President, RCM, 15 Mansfield St, London W1M 0BE. Tel. 01-580 8323.

Closing date for application—Wednesday, 13th February 1980. Interviews will take place during the week commencing Monday, 26th February 1980. Informal visits can be arranged by appointment.

Ancient capital where Soviet troops have not yet penetrated

'Times' correspondent warned in Afghan city: 'They will think you are Russian and kill you'

From Robert Fisk Ghazni, Afghanistan Jan 10

The city of Ghazni clusters round the giant battlements of an ancient Turkish fort 130 miles south of Kabul on the road to Kandahar from the foothills of the Safid Kuh mountain range.

It looks like a scene from a medieval painting, walled ramparts set against snow-enveloped peaks and pale blue skies of such breathtaking beauty that they distort all perspective.

Every half-hour or so, an Afghan Army lorry rumbles unsteadily down from the north to the Ghazni barracks, its red Afghan insignia a doubtful protection against attack by rebel tribesmen, and its scruffily dressed crew peering nervously from the cab.

Ghazni and several hundred square miles of the province round it are still outside Soviet control. The Russians have not arrived here yet and it will be interesting to see what happens when the first tanks come grinding down the road to Kandahar.

To reach Ghazni you take the highway south-west of Kabul just as the Soviet tanks are ring the capital. A European face and a Cossack-style hat waves you through the Soviet checkpoint unsmiling.

At the tiny windy village of Saydabad 70 miles to the south, more Russian tanks are dug in beside the road, their gun barrels pointed to-

wards the Safid Kuh mountains and dwarfing the poor mud and wattle huts in which the villagers live.

There is a bridge guarded by four soldiers with bayonets fixed and then there is just an empty, unprotected road of ice and drifting snow that stretches down towards the provinces of Ghazni and Paktia.

Four scores of miles the Afghan Army, notionally loyal to President Kamal and his Soviet allies, theoretically controls the countryside to the south although it is clear the moment you enter Ghazni that some form of unofficial ceasefire exists between the local soldiers and the Pathan tribesmen.

Afghan troops in sheepskin cloaks and vests—Ghazni is famous for the manufacture of embroidered Pustun coats—wander looking for provisions through the narrow mud streets beneath their crumbling and turreted barracks.

Almost 1,000 years ago, Mahmud of Ghazni imposed his rule over most of Afghanistan, devastated north-western India and established an Islamic empire that consolidated Sunni Muslim power over thousands of square miles. Ghazni became one of the great cities of the Persian world whose 400 resident poets included the great Ferdowsi.

The city is now a mockery of its former glory. Some of the battlements have collapsed and ice has cracked 1,000-year-old walls in the sub-zero temperatures. Isolated from the outside

world, its inhabitants are suspicious of strangers. A dangerous if understandable obsession with the safety of the city now that reports of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan have reached the city.

We had scarcely parked our car in the city when a tall man with a long grey moustache approached us. "Are you Russians?" he asked, and a group of Pathans in blue and white headgear began to gather round the car.

We told them we were English and for a minute or so there was a tense friendly smiles. We needed oil for our car and from a cluttered, dirty, concrete-floored shop an old man produced a can of motor oil.

Horses and carts and donkeys laden with sacks of grain slipped through the slush and mud and then someone muttered "khal". It means "donkey" and though apparently humorous on first hearing, it is a term of disgust and hatred which is used to refer to foreigners.

"They are calling you 'khal', our interpreter said. "They cannot tell the difference between English and Russians. They do not want foreigners here. You must go."

A larger group of Pathans had now arrived and stood in a line along a raised wooden pavement beside the street. At this point, one could only remember the small group of Russian civilians who walked innocently into the city of Herat to look at the mosque some months ago, only to be

massacred by the townspeople. Some of them were skinned alive.

There were no guns in the tribesmen's hands although two had long knives in their belts. A middle-aged man approached us. "Leave here now," he said. "Do not stop for anyone. If you are stopped by people on the road, drive through them. You are foreigners and they will think you are Russians and kill you. They will find out who you are afterwards." We left town at speed.

Frightening off strangers is one thing, however. Fighting a well-armed modern army is quite another. On the road north, again we could not help noticing, high on the hillsides and deep in the snow, a series of metal turrets with gun barrels poking from them. The Russians had apparently already taken physical control of the highway even though they did not stand beside the road.

Soviet tanks have been parachuted into the mountains north of Kabul and the artillery outside Ghazni appears to have been dropped from the air as well. Perhaps the Russians intend to bypass the city while it settles scores in the Khyber Pass.

Perhaps they intend to move south later when news of military success elsewhere has softened the hostility of Ghazni's unorganised tribesmen. The first soldiers to walk the narrow mud streets of one of Afghanistan's oldest cities, however, are going to have to be brave men.

EEC not to fill Russia's grain supply gap

From Michael Horvath Brussels, Jan 10

Responding to strong pressure from the United States, the EEC has agreed to ensure that Community grain exporters do not step into the gap left in Russian supplies by Carter's decision to embargo the sale of 17 million tonnes of feed grain to the Soviet Union.

But the Nine are at odds over whether the ban on grain sales should be extended to cover other commodities, such as butter, beef and sugar, as the Americans have requested. The French, in particular, think the EEC action should be limited to grain.

The whole question of a co-ordinated EEC response to the Soviet action in Afghanistan is to be thrashed out by foreign ministers of the Nine at their

meeting in Brussels next Tuesday. Curtailment of sales of high technology to the Russians will be among things discussed.

The French view, for which President Giscard d'Estaing was the strongest proponent, is that the EEC should not rush in on the Americans' coat tails but seek to develop a distinctive European response to the Afghan crisis.

The French attitude contrasts strongly with the enthusiastic statements of support from Mrs Thatcher for President Carter, although the Government has still not indicated how far it is prepared to go in imposing trade sanctions on the Soviet Union.

In the case of grain it is relatively easy for the EEC to give

the Americans the assurances they want because the Soviet Union has never been a customer of any significance, and the Community's estimated export surplus of five to eight million tonnes of wheat and barley can be sold elsewhere.

By contrast, the Soviet Union has been a traditional, and important, buyer of the EEC's surplus butter, of which there is estimated to be about 500,000 tonnes at present in storage. Last year, for example, EEC sources estimate that the Russians bought up to 100,000 tonnes of cut-price butter with the aid of export subsidies paid for by the Community taxpayers.

The French, who are surplus dairy producers, are strongly opposed to curtailing the sales, which they regard as an integral part of the EEC's com-

mon agricultural policy. The British, who pay a share of the cost of butter export subsidies but derive no benefit from them, have always condemned the sales, and find added political reasons for doing so.

Because of the sensitivity of the issue, the European Commission, which is responsible for administering the EEC's external trade policy, has been asked to remain silent about possible Community action until foreign ministers have discussed the matter next week.

The Commission has, however, taken the administrative steps necessary to control grain sales to the Soviet Union, and is intensifying its surveillance of the butter exports. There is said to be no hurry from the Soviet Union in the pipeline at present.

مكزات الناصر

OVERSEAS

Mrs Gandhi urges her followers not to show vindictiveness towards their defeated opponents

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Jan 10

Hardly more than a year after she was sent to a Delhi jail for contempt of Parliament, Mrs Indira Gandhi was unanimously elected leader here today by her 353-member Congress parliamentary party.

President Sanjiva Reddy, the former Janata politician who gave her the final opening for a comeback by calling mid-term elections, responded this evening by asking her to form a new government.

In contrast with the scene in the same central hall of Parliament in March, 1977, when a council of wise men headed by the late J. P. Varma awarded the premiership to Mr Morarji Desai, Mrs Gandhi's acclamation came today after and not before the speeches.

There was thus no acceptance speech from her but a possibly significant call to her MPs assembled for the first time—Mrs Gandhi, among them, to show any vindictiveness in the hour of victory.

With the Janata Government's attempt to bring her to account for the misdeeds of the state of emergency still obviously ranking, Mrs Gandhi said: "We are not small or petty-minded people. We are not thinking in terms of vendetta or vindictiveness. We are faced with a tremendous task and

we invite the cooperation of everyone."

Mr Gandhi, persuaded by journalists to make a few remarks as he sat about three-quarters of the way back in the hall, said he wanted to concentrate his energies on relieving the country's current shortages of paraffin, diesel oil and sugar.

That conformed well with the image his mother likes to give of him as an essentially practical-minded person. But he added: "And, of course, the law and order situation."

When pressed further if he would want to revive his five-point programme launched when he was at the height of his influence during Mrs Gandhi's previous administration and which included family planning, he replied: "We will see."

Mrs Gandhi, who was profusely garlanded and applauded as she entered, dressed in a splendid red and gold silk sari, had beside her not only the elderly notables of her own party like Mr Karanpati Tripathi, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister who beat Mr Raj Narain, Janata's Health Minister, at the polls, but also Mr T. Karunanidhi, leader of the Tamil regional party, which helps assure her administration an easy two-thirds majority in the new lower house.

Mrs Gandhi, who is now getting together her Cabinet list,

criticized the press for the second time since her election.

Some newspapers, she said, were describing the poll outcome as due to a negative vote. "Of course the people were fed up with the Janata and Lok Dal misrule," she said, "but it was a very positive vote for what Congress stands for, what it has achieved, and what the people hope we can do in the future."

She gave a warning of an "exceedingly difficult" situation both at home and internationally facing the new Government, and even anticipated an onslaught in Parliament from those remnants of the Janata Party and from the Marxist Communists, who have returned like Congress, with more seats.

The Marxists, despite their victories in Bengal and Kerala are not at all satisfied with the outcome overall.

Meanwhile, an analysis by the Press Trust of India of the election results in Uttar Pradesh—where 85 Lok Sabha (Lower House) seats politically the most significant state—shows that if Janata had not split it would still have obtained substantial more popular votes in no less than 70 of the constituencies.

Mrs Gandhi's parliamentary strength, in other words, owes much to what were basically triangular fights in British-style constituencies.

US pledges maximum assistance to Turkey

From Sinan Fisek
Ankara, Jan 10

Turkey and the United States today reached a five-year defence agreement, both sides termed "a milestone in Turkish-American relations."

Mr Ronald Spier, the United States Ambassador in Ankara, said after the Turkish Foreign Ministry: "Our commitment is to undertake a process which we believe will result in maximum assistance to Turkey."

He added that the agreement was "politically and economically feasible to Turkey," but he made no mention of specific amounts of aid.

"There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that assistance to Turkey both in the military and economic areas is an urgent matter for Turkey's allies, and I have urged my Government to give the maximum help it can, and I will continue to do so," Mr Spier said.

Mr Ferid Sabirbas, a Deputy Under-Secretary of the Foreign Ministry and the head of the Turkish delegation at the talks, said the agreement had taken a year to work out. "In view of the significant state-to-state multi-faceted relations," he said, "this was the shortest time possible."

Details of the agreement will not be made public until the annex and protocols are completed, officials said, adding that they did not expect any last-minute hitches.

The agreement covers a five-year period, and is renewable annually thereafter.

Ankara, Jan 10.—The defence agreement initiated today will allow the United States to continue using vital intelligence-gathering and military bases in Turkey, including two installations which monitor Soviet military and missile activities.

—Reuter.

Sudan-Uganda border is reopened

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Jan 10

Uganda officials today opened the land border with Sudan to normal traffic. A group of officials travelled from the customs post at Atiak, a few miles south of the border, to the town of Nimule, in southern Sudan, to confirm the reopening of this route.

Although never officially closed, the route has been barred to normal traffic since the overthrow of President Idi Amin, last April. The reopening marks an improvement in Uganda-Sudan relations.

Uganda has asked Sudan to return a large number of Ugandans who fled the country last year by fleeing supporters to Amin. Sudan has reopened its Kampala Embassy, closed several months ago because of tension between the two countries.

The meeting comes after the completion of elections under the new constitution. Voting by about 5,000 party representatives, went off smoothly.

Saturday is the sixteenth anniversary of the Zanzibar revolution, which took place in the process that the island achieved independence from British protection.

The new constitution effectively marks the end of the unquestioned rule of the Revolutionary Council in Zanzibar and consolidates the union between Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania, since both are under the same ruling party, the Chama cha Mapinduzi.

Zanzibar MPs meet 16 years after revolution

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Jan 10

Forty members of Zanzibar's new House of Representatives met for the first time since the 1964 revolution which overthrew the Sultan, are due to meet for the first time at the weekend.

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who supported or even fought for the Khmer Rouge have changed sides. Nevertheless they doubted if the anti-communist groups could be welded into a coherent resistance capable of changing the course of events which Vietnam considers irreversible.

A senior Thai army officer on the border said the groups had been quarrelling over "who is to be boss". There have been several armed clashes between them in recent weeks generally over food and medical supplies, but more serious fighting in recent days followed disagreement over collaboration with the Khmer Rouge.

Mr In Sakhan, the leader of one anti-communist group, had been collaborating militarily with the Khmer Rouge but a larger group led by Mr Vong Aichvong opposed cooperation. When the Khmer Rouge attacked the In Sakhan camp after a dispute over communist attempts to infiltrate it, half of Mr In Sakhan's 200,000 supporters fled to join another 200,000 under Mr Vong Aichvong's control.

Mr In Sakhan said today the communist attack had made him decide to stop all contact with them. He said he wanted to have friendly relations with Mr Vong Aichvong's supporters despite their seizure of weapons from his camp during the Khmer Rouge attack.

None of the Free Khmer leaders is enthusiastic about

Faced by a Russian dominated Afghanistan, which part of Pakistan's border could be the more tense, the North-West Frontier Province or Baluchistan?

Most of the refugees from Afghanistan are concentrated in the NWFP where most of Pakistan's own Pathan population lives. The tension here goes back 30 years, with Afghanistan's on-and-off campaign for Pakhtoonistan—a united Pathan state, which would restore to Afghanistan's Pathan majority the rule or patronage of all the Pathans who live in Pakistan.

The answer to the question, however, could be that Baluchistan is now the more vulnerable. In some ways Baluchistan province is a miniature version of Afghanistan; that is to say with a small, educated, urban class and a large, mostly tribal, nomadic and often illiterate mass of the population. During the last decade this educated Baluchi class, the young especially, has been more attached to Afghanistan than have the Pathans of the NWFP and much more influenced by Soviet propaganda.

In the last two decades this urban Baluchi class has much expanded. Living in a poor province, where a pastoral society exists by grazing sheep or goats and shifting with the available pastures, they have been surrounded by discontent and disturbance. Three campaigns to pacify the province by the Pakistan Army have sent many Baluchis to Afghanistan, according to one estimate, as many as 7,000 Baluchi-families moved towards Kabul in the mid-seventies.

Among the young, the opportunity of higher education in the Soviet Union was eagerly seized and many went to return as romantic revolutionaries. Certainly they were stimulated even more by the Afghan revolution of April, 1978, since when leaving Baluchis have been a force in Paki-

stan politics as they never were before. The National Democratic Party, which under the leadership of Wali Khan has drawn its support almost entirely from the two frontier provinces, split down the middle in April of last year. It was a split between left and right but equally a split between Pathans and Baluchis. The Baluchis were on the left, more hostile to the Pakistan Government and more sympathetic to a communist Afghanistan, and the Pathans on the right, more accommodating to the Pakistan Government and much less enthralled by Afghanistan's left-wing takeover.

Nevertheless, there are the usual quarrels among the leftists of Baluchistan and with the indefinite postponement of elections and the current ban on political activity imposed by General Zia last October, the danger of the Baluchi left should not be exaggerated.

Baluchistan is the westernmost state of Pakistan with 2½ million people living in 134,000 square miles, though about one million of these are Pathans. Adjoining Baluchistan, across the Iranian frontier live another half million or more Baluchis inhabiting 70,000 square miles of equally rough, unirrigated hill country where the nomadic life and tribal organization still dominate society. What brings these Baluchis close to those in Pakistan is not merely their proximity across a little controlled frontier and the distance that the Iranian Baluchis live from the main centres of Iranian life; the Baluchis are Sunni Muslims and hence an alien minority in Iran.

Then there are the Baluchis of Afghanistan itself, moving about the south-western corner of the country also in close touch with those in Pakistan. Baluchis in Baluchistan are loyal to the Baluchi family, clan and tribe counts for more than loyalty to any nation.

FOREIGN REPORT

The vulnerability of Baluchistan

Against this must be set the advantages of the economy. Does Baluchistan offer jobs for the aspiring, educated young? The answer must be not yet. The best exploited economic asset is the Sulaiman field in the north. There are ample deposits of coal, chrome, sulphur and iron ore but not much is yet being mined. In 1970 a university was established in Quetta, the provincial capital and home of the military staff college set up in British days; and other towns as well as Quetta have expanded in the past 20 years. But no one can say that economic hopes will keep discontented, young revolutionary Baluchis happy.

Among Baluchi aspirations, the least likely would be a united, independent Baluchi republic taking in those from Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. It is true that in the latter half of the eighteenth century something like this existed before British rule came. But nationhood in this sense is not enough developed.

Nor is the alternative for Pakistan's Baluchis of joining those in Iran a possibility while the Ayatollah rules. If, however, Afghanistan were to win its war to get the Pathans of Pakistan into their camp, then that might tempt Baluchis to go over to a force that is unlikely to have after three decades the Pakistani Pathans have not thought that Afghanistan had anything to offer them.

But what might a "socialist" Afghanistan offer to the romantic young Baluchi revolutionaries? The response in Baluchistan to the Tudeh government's accession in 1978 was certainly fulsome. Can the Russians exploit this and will they want to? Or will such romanticism wither in face of the realities of Soviet domination?

Richard Harris.

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Russians sail into the raising of the Titanic

From Ivor Davis
Piraeus, Jan 10

The captain of the Russian liner the Ukraina brought his ship alongside a berth in Piraeus Harbour yesterday and, port formalities completed, went on deck to take a look at the ancient harbour near Athens.

From the bridge his eyes roamed over the cruise liners along side when suddenly he started. Something was terribly wrong.

In the dock not more than 50 yards away lay a strange-looking ship and around it hung a phalanx of American flags, bunting, giant red white and blue rosettes and a cheering crowd of well-wishers.

New York City policemen paced the quayside and Manhattan patrol cars were everywhere. Two American television network helicopters swooped low over the ship and crowds of American press clambered over the ship's stern as some obviously top American naval brass held a press conference.

In fact, the Russian port was crawling with Americans. Was this finally President Carter's retaliatory move for the invasion of Afghanistan? Should the captain wear the Kremlin?

Before he could act a strange official, rapped up in a "Comrade ship" which is called the Titanic.

No one knows for sure what the Russians' reactions were but if the skipper and his crew were thoroughly perplexed, one could blame them. They were not to know that the perpetrator of this American seizure of Piraeus was not Jimmy Carter of Washington, DC, but Lord Lew Grade of London.

It was a piece of pure Hollywood. As the Russians had dropped anchor the cast and crew of Lord Grade's \$35m epic *Raise the Titanic*, three years in the making, descended on the harbour to shoot the scene of the arrival in New York of the newly refitted ship which collided with that iceberg almost 70 years ago.

The film is based on the novel of the same name by Clive Cussler and stars Jason Robards and Sir Alec Guinness. It is a Hollywood cum fiction.

Presumably someone eventually explained the situation to the Russians who were soon lining their decks carrying cameras and binoculars.

But they still appear to have wondered at the craziness of people who would go to such lengths to transform a Greek harbour into New York when they had an authentic New York harbour in their own back yard.

The film's producer, William Fry said, Athens was found the ideal, an old rusting passenger liner ready for the scrapyard, which could serve as the newly raised Titanic. It was cheaper by far to bring the ship to New York than to bring the ship to New York. It would have cost at least \$1m to tow it—even in the unlikely event that we could have insured it.

The Russians did not get the great tour of the mothballed bulk of the Aethina/Titanic. If they had they would have seen an eerie recreation of the Titanic's grand salon encrusted with sea mould, with broken gilt chairs, grand piano and the skeletons of once elegant staff stacked in a corner, the whole atmosphere dank, grey and tomblike.

A chilling place it certainly was, but happily the latest manoeuvre in an escalating cold war.

Marcos appeal to rival seen as inevitable

From M. G. G. Pillai
Kuala Lumpur, Jan 10

President Marcos's appeal to his bitterest rival, the former Senator Benigno Aquino, to forget the past and join him in building a new Philippines society has taken many by surprise, but the move itself was inevitable, considering the growing problems facing the seven-year-old martial law administration.

The action itself is almost without precedent. It is as if President Zia ul-Haq instead of hanging Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had invited him from his death cell and asked him for help in putting Pakistan society right.

Like Mr Bhutto, Mr Aquino was under sentence of death for treason. But unlike the unfortunate Mr Bhutto, President Marcos promptly ordered a fresh hearing on the matter after a military court had passed the death sentence.

Comparisons between Mr Bhutto and Mr Aquino are probably not fair, but the fact remains that Mr Aquino was also the most prominent politician in his country and was widely expected to succeed Mr Marcos as president in 1972, when the President pre-empted the elections and imposed martial law administration instead.

But President Marcos's remarkable move to invite Mr Aquino—who is now under temporary house arrest to enable him to spend the Christmas and New Year with his family—has come about as the martial law administration is running into trouble.

The promises that were used to justify the dictatorship that Mr Marcos had established have not been generally kept, according to most observers of the Philippines scene, and opposition is fast growing.

Coupled with a lack of a designated successor—although his wife, Mrs Imelda Marcos, is widely tipped to succeed him—the 67-year-old President is not in the best of health, pressure against his regime has been growing.

The Army remains beholden to him but its seven years of unfettered power as Mr Marcos's ally has given rise to its leaders' ideas of permanency and indications are that this is now beginning to worry Mr Marcos. The Army has been a neutral force in pre-martial law politics, but this is changing.

The Army remains particularly important as the Muslim irredentist movement in southern Philippines continues to drain much needed funds as it grows stronger with support from the Middle East.

Iran recently cancelled its contracts with the Philippines to supply crude oil, thus forcing Manila to purchase the short-fall—about 10 per cent of the 220,000 barrels of crude that it consumes daily—at a time when inflationary pressures are becoming unmanageable.

The current account deficit reached 770 million last year and is expected to exceed 1900 million in 1980. Investment has slowed down and the corruption and blight on the national life that Mr Marcos promised to eradicate when he came to power have remained with a vengeance, the beneficiaries being Mr Marcos's cronies and relatives.

Even the traditionally pro-Government Roman Catholic Church—the Philippines is the only Catholic country in Asia—has begun to criticise the administration. Many people believe that the Church under the humanizing influence of Cardinal Sin would step up the pressure if only because he feels that this pressure is the only way of keeping the Communists away.

So with all these problems ahead, Mr Marcos has gone to the leader of the now banned Liberal Party, which with his Nacionalista Party, were the main ones in pre-martial law Philippines.

Mr Aquino is using Mr Marcos's dilemma to gain as much political capital as he can. At a press conference he gave today in defiance of his house arrest conditions, he offered to leave the Philippines for good under an amnesty but he was not prepared to admit the treasonous charges levelled against him.

He has demanded a public discussion of the proposals that Mr Marcos has put forward for a restoration of democratic rights in the Philippines. Many of the restrictive laws the President made under his martial law powers ought to be removed and the country be involved in the process that would bring it back to democracy.

Mr Marcos's reactions are not known, but the fact remains that given the magnitude of problems that he faces, he may have little choice.

Muslims freed: President Marcos has ordered the release of 135 Filipino Muslims arrested early last month during a pro-Iranian, anti-American demonstration in Manila.

who supported or even fought for the Khmer Rouge have changed sides. Nevertheless they doubted if the anti-communist groups could be welded into a coherent resistance capable of changing the course of events which Vietnam considers irreversible.

A senior Thai army officer on the border said the groups had been quarrelling over "who is to be boss". There have been several armed clashes between them in recent weeks generally over food and medical supplies, but more serious fighting in recent days followed disagreement over collaboration with the Khmer Rouge.

Mr In Sakhan, the leader of one anti-communist group, had been collaborating militarily with the Khmer Rouge but a larger group led by Mr Vong Aichvong opposed cooperation. When the Khmer Rouge attacked the In Sakhan camp after a dispute over communist attempts to infiltrate it, half of Mr In Sakhan's 200,000 supporters fled to join another 200,000 under Mr Vong Aichvong's control.

Mr In Sakhan said today the communist attack had made him decide to stop all contact with them. He said he wanted to have friendly relations with Mr Vong Aichvong's supporters despite their seizure of weapons from his camp during the Khmer Rouge attack.

None of the Free Khmer leaders is enthusiastic about

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THE ARTS

Theatre: forthcoming events

The Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Camelot* by C. S. Lewis and Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's *Once in a Lifetime* are shortly to transfer to Wyndham's and the Piccadilly Theatres. *Piaf* goes to Wyndham's for a five-week season from Tuesday, and then moves to the Piccadilly to join *Once in a Lifetime*, which has its first performance there on February 20.

The actor Tom Conti will make his British debut as a director on January 22 with a revival of Rodney Ackland's comedy *Before the Party* at the Oxford Playhouse.

Michael Gough and Phyllis Calvert will be among the cast, and the production will subsequently tour to Brighton and Richmond. It will be followed in Oxford by a new play from

Nigel Williams, whose previous play, *Class Enemy*, is currently running off-Broadway in New York. His new work, *Triad*, is set in the basement of Woolworth in Hounslow, where two armed men hold four hostages captive.

Born in the Gardens, a new play by Peter Nichols, will open at the Globe Theatre on January 23, with previews from Thursday. Beryl Reid heads the cast, and the director is Clifford Williams. The play was seen at Bristol Old Vic in September.

Le Cirque Imaginaire, with Victoria Chaplin and Jean-Baptiste Thiriet, will return to the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, from March 4 to 30. Their first visit to Riverside, last month, was sold out.

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The Fine Art Society
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Hill Moon Theatre
ICA
Inch Centre
Lyn Studio Theatre
National Book League
NFT
National Poetry Centre
The National Club, Kilburn
The Old Vic
Pentax Gallery
Photography Gallery
Poplar Civic Theatre
Queen Elizabeth Hall
RCA Gallery
RIBA
Ronnie Scott's
Round House
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Royal Court
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ABC Shaftesbury Av.

ABC Fulham Road

Hot Stuff (AA)

Steel (AA)

Classic, Leicester Sq.

Scene, Leicester Sq.

Night Games (X)

Prince Charles

John Huston is 75, has been working for almost fifty of those years in Hollywood and directed his first picture, *The Maltese Falcon*, almost forty years ago, in 1941. There is nothing though about the mastery of *Wise Blood*—apart from the relaxed assurance and a certain sage charity behind the ironies—that reveals it is the work of a veteran. It is, indeed, the most powerful film we are likely to see this year.

It is based on the novel by the American writer Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964), and was scripted by Benedict and Michael Fitzgerald, who as children were friends of the writer. Her novel is set in Bible Belt America: "Taulkingham" was originally modelled on Atlanta but, because of the changes wrought upon the city in the 28 years since the novel appeared, Huston has moved the location to Macon, Georgia.

Hazel Motes is a dour young man who comes back from the army determined "to do things I ain't never done before," and driven by a frenzy to escape the burdens of guilt laid on him by his hell-fire revivalist upbringing. (In flashbacks Huston himself plays the nightmare figure of the preacher grandfather whose image is coated with other images of death, sexual intimations of sexuality, the shame of fright, hidden misdeeds.)

Arriving in Taulkingham, where even the traffic cops talk like preachers, he meets a variety of fakes and fools: Asa

Hawkins, an allegedly self-blinded preacher, and his predatory, ugly daughter Sabbath Lily; Enoch Emery, a lonesome, natural-born idiot driven by the irrational dictates of his own "wise blood" and eager to communicate the benefits of that blood to Hazel.

Hazel defies grandfather, Jesus and the seductive salvationism of Hawkins, ignores the sexual voracity of Sabbath Lily as well as Enoch's tributes of friendship and fanatically sets about preaching his own new Church of Christ Without Christ. The outcome—the gradual revelation of the obsessive hold of religion upon the would-be escapee, the extent of his need for expiation and self-mortification—is by turns comic, ironic and ultimately horrific.

Huston's technique of adopting the words and indications of his literary originals as precisely as possible, and already served him well in *The Maltese Falcon*. In other hands such methods have more often than not resulted in blurry, lifeless carbon copies. Huston, however, possesses a unique sensibility which enables him to interpret and even enrich the writer's conception.

Once, at the time of *The African Queen*, he revealed that "The trick is in the casting." In *Wise Blood* he uses good professional actors—a

side the local people of Macon: it is said that not only the rhetorical sheriff, but also the mountainous, Fellinian where, were played by their real-life originals.

He casts his personages for their spiritual resemblance, rather than as strictly physical lookalikes. Brad Dourif (with a dire intensity that strangely recalls Audie Murphy in Huston's *The Red Badge of Courage*), is indeed, O'Connor's Hazel, his face "sour and frog-like," it looked as if it had a shut cloud up in it. Harry Dean Stanton's Asa Hawkins, too, has a mouth with the "look that might have been either holy or blasphemous," but there was a wildness in the eyes that suggested terror.

The other parts are as accurately selected: Amy Wright as the precociously disolute Sabbath Lily, an attractive newcomer, *The Seven Year Itch*, as Enoch, fills out a role that has been inevitably reduced from the book, providing comically touching moments like his shocked reaction to a public rebuke by Hazel, a flood of tears filtering through a mouthful of hamburger.

Huston shares with a very few directors (Buñuel is another) the ability to make everything look perfectly effortless, a style which reveals itself in a best-selling novel

by Jay Amos; and the novel has now been spectacularized by American International Pictures as *The Amityville Horror*. The most that can be said for its accuracy is that it is based on the real events; though the opening and ending titles invite a more literal belief in what is on the screen.

There is not much point in regretting that an accurate recounting of the events, and the history of the house before (the film doesn't mention that it stands on an old Indian sacred site) and afterwards, might have been much more interesting. The director, Stuart Rosenberg, has instead opted for a full-blooded AIP spin-chiller, and done it very effectively. It is well stocked with chills and horrors and good melodrama characters (James Brolin, Margot Kidder, Rod Taylor, and the storm-swept house with its side elevation for all the world like a demon face—apparently one of the more accurate details of the film).

Time After Time is the first film directed (as well as written) by Nicholas Meyer, who scripted *The Seven Year Itch* and *The Great Escape*. Its premise is a fine invention: H. G. Wells has actually made his time machine in the cellar, and after it has been borrowed by Jack the Ripper for a quick getaway, himself pursues the villain to 1979. After that, un-

fortunately, the film hasn't really the courage of its convictions: the meeting of the minds of 1893 and 1979 tends to be seen in cliché, and the recognition that Jack the Ripper is more at home in modern San Francisco (they land there because Wells's study has been shipped for an exhibition) than in the scientist and visionary could have brought out more than a few excellent lines. ("The first man who raises his fist has run out of ideas.")

Within its limitation, though *Time After Time* is extremely likeable, played winningly by Malcolm McDowell and the slow-burner, Mary Steenburgen and, wickedly, by David Warner, as Jack in jeans.

Dom de Luse is the somewhat melancholy, balding, pompous cop who tends to play the villain in films of the McGee school. For his debut as director, *Hot Stuff*, he has taken a story based on actual incidents, where the police apparently set up as receivers and not only receive a bunch of stolen goods but rounded up some 4,000 thieves. The idea is funny; and de Luse, like Huston, seems to have a genius for casting. His fellow cops (Shirley Maer, Jerry Reed, Luis Aranda), their customers (notably Bill McCutchen and Sydney Lassick) and the mob which tries to muscle in on a good thing, led by the veteran screen gangster Harry Lawrence, are a constantly enjoyable bunch of eccentrics as could be hoped for. If the gaps tend to be repetitive, and rather clumsily strung into a story, there is every reason to believe that de Luse will do better next time.

It is showing with *Steel*, set among the tough world of high-rise building, with a sort of Dirty Dozen construction team pitted against corrupt bosses and unions. The film is directed with energy, if no particular distinction by Roger Corman alumnus, Steven Carver.

Roger Vadim's *Night Games* is a sad fall from his previous American film, *Pretty Maids All in a Row*. Recovering all the worst elements of Polanski's *Repulsion*, it is about a wife temporarily but understandably abandoned by her husband on account of her frigidity, the result of childhood rape. An *Exorcist* who appears to her in the night in a variety of ridiculous fancy dresses rather rapidly puts things to rights, as well as saving her from a night prowler. To compound the film's many demerits, Vadim has succeeded in directing his eccentric actors to speak as if they were all rather poorly dubbed.

David Robinson

ECO/Tippett/Del Mar

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stanley Sadie

The Tippett birthday celebration offered on Wednesday by the English Chamber Orchestra was, aptly enough I suppose, a retrospective event. Certainly Sir Michael has plenty to look back on at 75. It must be the particular shape of his output that determined the rather limited period over which the chosen music ranged: scarcely more than 20 of those 75 years. The opportunity would have been welcome to hear something from his youth and something from recent years, but all his works for chamber orchestra happen to fall in those middle decades.

We did, however, have one novelty, or near-novelty: what was described, with perhaps pardonable exaggeration, as the world premiere of *Words for Music*—a work consisting of series of short instrumental interludes linking a sequence of W. B. Yeats's poems. The music, commissioned by the BBC, was written in 1959-60 and broadcast in June 1960.

Mayerling

Covent Garden

John Percival

In a mainly familiar cast for this season's first performance of *Mayerling*, it was Lesley Collier who gave the most surprising account of her role. She has played Mary Vetsera since the production's early days, but on Wednesday she brought to the part a voluptuousness I have not seen from her before in this or any other ballet.

There is little or no madness in her concept of the character. The impression she gives (quite in accordance with the known facts) is of a nicely brought-up girl with a crush on the hand-

some prince and the idea that it is rather a lark to go along with his fantasies about death and danger. She lets the choreography speak for itself in the absolute clarity of her movements. Keenly aware of its skipping about, and equally the passionate duet soon afterwards in Rudolf's bedroom.

David Wall repeated his masterly interpretation of Prince Rudolf: capricious, tormented, proud and damned. With Merle Park also playing the role made for her as the sly Countess Larisch, pitting her wits against the world with likeable courage, the centre of characters utterly dominates the ballet, although with good support from Wendy Ellis as timid, dreary Princess

Stephanie and, after two stiff a beginning, from Monica Mason as the Empress.

The trouble with the ballet is that these are the only characters who seem to have interest in the story. MacMillan more than momentarily. Stuffed with a long list of utterly wooden minor roles, a great deal of dubious history and perfunctory or irrelevant incident, the whole production, for all its three hours, is a little like a sure, is a different, shorter and much better ballet struggling to get out.

The choreography for the principals includes some of the best of MacMillan's recent invention. If only he could have concentrated entirely on them instead of following the conventional three-act narrative form,

Television

Keep Smiling

BBC 1

Stanley Reynolds

A sure way to dramatic success is to give the audience plays full of pretty pictures and fashionable people and yet flatter the viewers' intellect by making them believe they are sitting there gazing with brave, unblinking eye, while some horror of modern life is being unmasked. Sugar-coating the pill is the phrase. And this is just what Mr Paul Joyce did with *Keep Smiling*, which he wrote and directed for the Play for Today on BBC 1 last night. Mr Joyce is a professional photographer and therefore his pictures were most pleasing to the eye, marvellously composed.

Do we, then, want bad photography? I think we rather do, at least to rub the viewers' noses in, like the stark realism of Mr Tony Garnett and Mr Ken Loach in the old BBC 1 Wednesday Plays.

Keep Smiling was about schizophrenia. The notes told us that Mr Joyce had researched the job. Stephen Moore, as Simon Hulse, an apparently high-paid executive, was suddenly taken with

the disorder rather like one comes down with the flu. He quit his job, took to collecting trash in an amateur way from neighbours' dustbins, got himself into a mess, wore a tramp's outfit, filthy pullover, dirty mac and gabby trousers. While this was going on his wife, Mary (Morag Hood), attempted to cope rearing the children, supporting the family finances.

Miss Hood is a beautiful woman and therefore fits in with the pretensions of the play. When they wanted to show that Mary was under mental strain herself, they merely put Miss Hood's make-up on badly. And in the end, with the mortgage on the luxury house foreclosed, with Mary and the children living on a humble estate, the wife seemed to have lost her home-decorating taste. The wallpaper and the curtains in the new down-market house were appalling. Meanwhile Simon was not locked away gibbering in a cell or out growing on street-corners. Instead, unlike our own problems which are problems because they never go away, Simon was conveniently swept out of sight. What sort of reality is there about a play based on the idea of which is living in a council house with tacky curtains? None at all, really.

Philharmonia/

Sanderling

Wembley

Barry Millington

The Philharmonia's Beethoven Cycle, in which they are to play the complete symphonies and concertos under Kurt Sanderling, the East German conductor, was launched on Wednesday evening at the Wembley Conference Centre. This luxurious auditorium, thoughtfully laid out (generous in knee room) and well endowed with amenities, is slowly establishing itself as a major London concert hall and deservedly so.

In spite of the new acoustic screening, the sound is still somewhat less than perfect. However, from a seat nearer the stage, I enjoyed in the second half a remarkably improved quality of reception. I should say that I think it likely that my judgment of all the performances was affected by that move.

Having elected, reasonably enough, to deal with the symphonies in numerical order, Mr Sanderling was faced with the task of making his mark on the Beethoven canon with one of the least powerful works. He took up the challenge not with a forceful, thrashing interpretation of the first symphony, but with a polished, well-mannered one. Sensitive in phrasing and melodious in execution, it was a pleasing performance, some where between the routine (not that a routine performance of a Beethoven symphony is

necessarily unsatisfying) and the sensational, with a leaning towards the former.

John Lill was the soloist in the fourth concert, and he and the conductor fulfilled their roles acceptably but neither seemed to inspire the other to anything truly imaginative. Mr Lill did occasionally produce a promising phrase or idea, but the partnership appeared determined not to develop it.

From my superior vantage point, the second symphony was undoubtedly more successful. Again it was the poise, the sobriety almost, that was distinctive, but in addition one could appreciate better the handling of dynamic contrasts and other features which gave the performance as dramatic edge over those of the first half. In the closing stages of the last movement I even began to feel the tingle of excitement, that I had been so missing before.

This could turn out to be a distinguished Beethoven cycle and I wish it well.

Rattle takes over

on South Bank

Simon Rattle is to be artistic director of South Bank Summer Music, the chamber music festival promoted each August by the GLC, from 1981 to 1983. He will succeed Pinchas Zukerman, who appears as artistic director for the last time this August; previous directors have been Daniel Barenboim, Gerald Moore, André Previn and Neville Marriner.

"I laughed till I cried"

Derek Malcolm

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SPORT

Rugby Union

Irishmen of distinction in charge of Lions tour

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Two of Ireland's most distinguished post-war forwards, Sid Millar (Rathfriland and Ulster) and Noel Murphy (Cork Constitution and Munster), have been appointed by the Four Home Unions committee as manager and coach of the British Lions tour party to South Africa this summer.

It will be only the second time since 1958 that two men from the same country and it remains possible, when events in the Five Nations championship have unfolded, that Ireland will also supply the 1980 captain. Their leader, Fergus Slattery, who is equal to Murphy's world record of 41 caps as a flank forward when he plays at Twickenham tomorrow week, must be seen as having excellent qualifications for the job.

Meanwhile, it is comforting to note that the home unions—who, as far as I am aware, decided in 1978 to spread responsibility for the tour party's usual procedure of inviting the home countries to nominate a number of candidates to the selectors—have not been unduly influenced by national considerations when making their first important appointment. The choice of Murphy, aged 41, was widely expected since he has a better track record than any of the other national coaches, two of whom, John Lloyd (Wales), is in his first season. He took over as Irish coach for the 1977-78 season and last summer guided his country to two good international wins in Australia.

Millar, who is 46, coached the unbeaten Lions, on the last tour of South Africa in 1974, when Bill



Sid Millar (left) and Noel Murphy, manager and coach of the British Lions

McBride was captain. There are several instances of Lions captains assuming administrative responsibilities on later tours, but Millar will be the first man to achieve managerial status twice. This says much for the quality and popularity of the man who has been chosen to lead the tour party.

He won 37 Irish caps as an international player between 1958 and 1970 and acquired the Lions' two other international appearances at Twickenham in 1974—the last time Wales lost to the oldest rivals—and as a substitute in the centre the following year.

The old hands in this new-looking Welsh side are deep in the scrum. The scrummers, Gareth Jones and Price, have 73 caps. But elsewhere, Wales look vulnerable and inexperienced. The two half-backs, much praised for their speed and power, are new to the international scene. Phillips played superbly against England last season, but his first appearance, and has the edge over Windsor in mobility so perhaps the British Lion hooker will not be so badly missed.

Wales have taken a big gamble in the back row. Ringer, a predator in the Rives mould, has not

so far had an outstanding club season, and the selection of the former Cardiff scrum-half, who has played against a side who have given Wales more trouble in the last decade than any of the others.

Butler is 22, 2in, and 14st and teaches Spanish and French at Cheltenham College. After spending a year in Spain, he went to Fribourg in Switzerland, where he played for the club rugby at Pontypool, alongside world-class performers like Squire, Cohen, Faulkner, Price and Windsor and his rapid progress is a tribute to his inspiration, and encouragement.

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'Communist links' of opponents to S Africa

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 10

As the internal row over the British Lions tour grows, the South African Council of Sport, which is led by Hassan Howa and is trying to stop the Lions' tour, is accused of being a communist front.

The minister stressed, however, that the British mission to inquire into South African sport, due next week, and the French mission, which is expected to arrive in the next few days, would be free to speak to anyone, including the government's strongest opponents.

In an interview with the Afrikaans newspaper Beeld, Mr. Marsden alleged that the South African Council of Sport, which is led by Hassan Howa and is trying to stop the Lions' tour, is accused of being a communist front.

He said SACOS was busy with a political game and placed no value on matters important to sportsmen. He claimed that Abraham Ordas, president of the Supreme Council of Sport in Africa, was in 1978 thanked SACOS and its external wing, SANROC (South African National Olympic Council), for doing their best to bring South African sport to its knees.

Marsden recalled that SANROC was founded by John Harris, who was hanged for murder after planting bombs at Johannesburg's airport. It was later taken over by Dennis Brutus, who was listed as a communist in South Africa, he said. The minister quoted from a telegram sent by the secretary of SACOS, Norman Panther, to the Netherlands government, saying that the threatened South African participation in the Paralympic Olympics to be held in June.

Football

Embattled Aleksic has damaged ligaments

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 10

Millja Aleksic, the Tottenham goalkeeper, has a serious leg injury in addition to the facial injury he received during Wednesday's FA Cup win at Manchester United.

Aleksic, who suffered a broken jaw and lost two teeth, also damaged his right knee ligaments in the 57th minute clash with Joe Jordan.

Marsden's jaw injury is not causing us any much concern, Aleksic said. According to what the hospital told me, he could be back next week, depending on whether his confidence has been shaken. But his knee is in plaster and we will not know until the plaster comes off how bad that injury is.

Aleksic, who underwent dental surgery in a Manchester hospital after being hit on the face by Joe Jordan, will stay in bed until the plaster is removed tomorrow so that he can return to London with the rest of the team after their league game at Manchester City.

His place at Molineux Road will be taken by Barry Davies, who plays for Luton. Davies, fully recovered from a broken finger suffered in training on Christmas Day, is at present at pains to defend the controversy surrounding the incident for which many observers blamed Jordan. It was a genuine challenge from Jordan, he said. Aleksic is more worried about the player's mental reaction to the incident, rather than his ability to overcome the physical damage when you get a bad bang in the face, especially if you are a goalkeeper. But he is a brave

Table tennis
Influenza cannot stop advance of England

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 10

England reached the finals of the men's and women's team event in the international table tennis championships at Brighton yesterday, even though most of their players were affected by an influenza bug.

Neither side dropped a match and the men's first team of Desmond Douglas, Paul Day and Donald Parker, having disposed of the Soviet first team 3-0 in the semi-final round, now take on their young and inexperienced second side in the final.

England's first round win was a 3-0 victory over the Soviet first team. Douglas beat the Soviet first player 3-0, Day beat the Soviet second player 3-0, and Parker beat the Soviet third player 3-0.

England's second round win was a 3-0 victory over the Soviet second team. Douglas beat the Soviet second player 3-0, Day beat the Soviet third player 3-0, and Parker beat the Soviet fourth player 3-0.

England's third round win was a 3-0 victory over the Soviet third team. Douglas beat the Soviet third player 3-0, Day beat the Soviet fourth player 3-0, and Parker beat the Soviet fifth player 3-0.

Wales go for Blyth's vast experience

By Peter Walker

The Welsh team to meet France at the National Stadium, Cardiff, on January 19 contains two new faces and a surprise. Bobby Windsor, who has been in the Welsh team since 1974, is the oldest player in the team. He is 36, and has played in the Welsh team since 1974. He is the oldest player in the team. He is 36, and has played in the Welsh team since 1974.

Rhodesia plans British tour

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 10

Salisbury, Jan 10—Rhodesia is making tentative plans to send its national rugby union side on a tour of Britain and Ireland this summer. The tour would be a three-match tour, and would be a three-match tour.

Cricket

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 10

For the next fortnight the efforts of the England team in Australia will be concentrated on winning the Benson and Hedges World Series one-day competition. To that end they will spend the next two days in Melbourne, where they will play a one-day match against the Australian team.

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Rugby League

American infant hands out a challenge

By Keith Macklin

The newly formed marketing committee of the Rugby League will next week consider proposals for a tour of the United States during the summer. The suggestion is that Great Britain, Australia, France and New Zealand send national sides to help launch the infant United States Rugby League.

Motor racing

Villeneuve's title threat to Scheckter

By John Blunsden

The opening shots in the battle for the 1980 world championship will be fired this morning in Buenos Aires. The race will be a 1000km race, and will be a 1000km race.

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Hockey

That old Indian magic has Britain briefly in its spell

By Sydney Friskin
Karachi, Jan 10

For the sixth time in a row Britain lost the lead and were beaten today by India in the Champions Trophy hockey tournament here. The old Indian magic asserted itself, albeit briefly, and Britain, after a promising start, were left without a point.

Boxing

Money for past boxers in Solomons will

By Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 10

Jack Solomons, the boxing promoter, who died last month, has left money in his will to set up a charitable trust for former boxers who have fallen on hard times, and boxing people who are in need. Mr Solomons's successor as chairman of the World Sporting Club, Alex Alexander, said that he had also expressed the wish that money should be raised for the Olympic boxing training fund, and that the club would sponsor an evening boxing event.

Equestrianism

Badminton to provide valid Olympic yardstick

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

As in every Olympic Games year, the badminton trials, which take place from April 17 to 20, assume a special significance with the selection of the British Olympic team depending on the outcome.

Golf

Play suspended overnight after heavy rain

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 10

Palm Springs, Jan 10.—A severe rain flood the course and forced an overnight suspension of play in yesterday's first round of the 1980 Bob Hope Classic. The tournament was suspended for a day.

England's travelling circus rolls swiftly on its way

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Melbourne, Jan 10

For the next fortnight the efforts of the England team in Australia will be concentrated on winning the Benson and Hedges World Series one-day competition. To that end they will spend the next two days in Melbourne, where they will play a one-day match against the Australian team.

For the record

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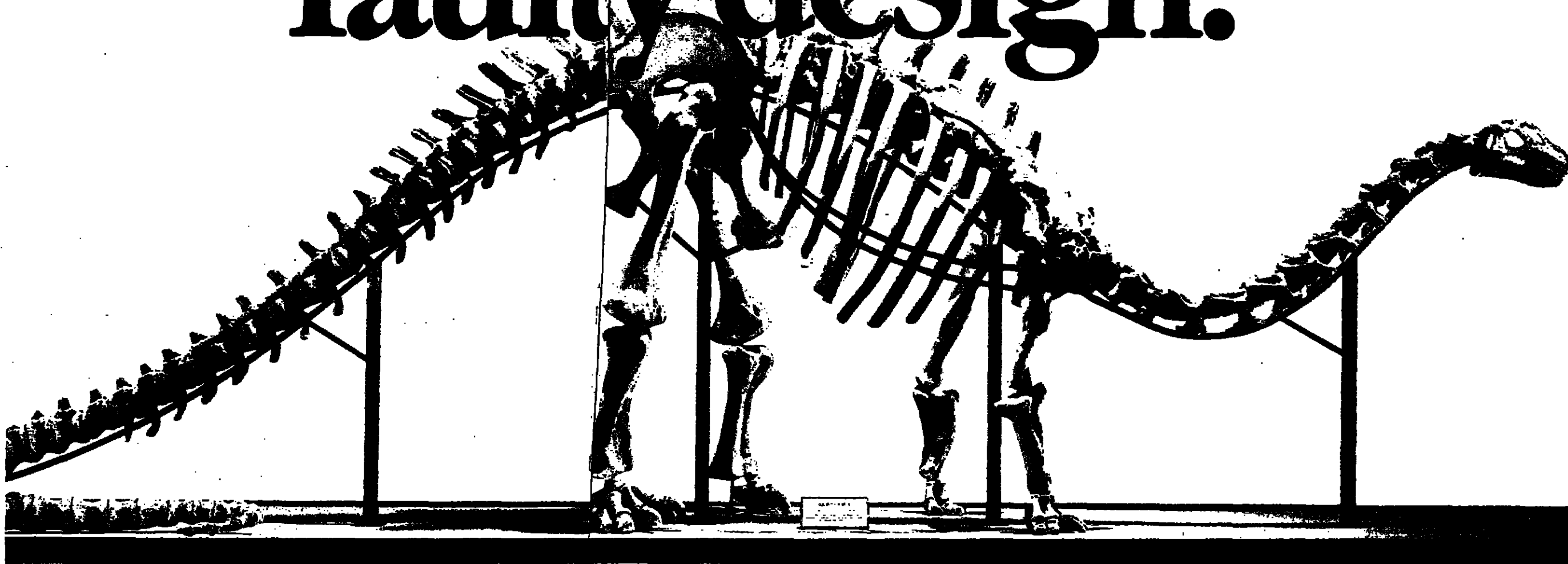
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Peter Hill and Paul Routledge put vital questions to the leaders of both sides in the steel strike, Sir Charles Villiers and William Sirs

Is this strike due to a failure in presentation of the pay offer, or are there more deep seated reasons; and what went wrong on December 28?

How realistic are the present positions of management and unions?

What form should the final settlement take?

What are the specific dangers of a prolonged shutdown?

What is the Government doing, and what should it be doing to resolve this dispute?

Can unions and management resolve this dispute or will it require third party intervention?

What kind of collective bargaining should BSC adopt to reflect the realities of the industry and avoid a repetition of this strike?

What is morale like among management and workers in BSC and what will be the long term impact of this strike?

Is there a political dimension to this strike? If so what will come of it?

What size and kind of steel industry should this country have in the 1980s and beyond—and will we get it?

What are your personal feelings now?

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman British Steel Corporation

Mr William Sirs, general secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation

Why the BSC's offer must be fully understood

"The strike, in our view, is due to one fundamental, deep-seated reason, the unwillingness of the unions to accept the corporation's dire financial circumstances and to negotiating in this particular year improvement in pay against improvements in performance," said Sir Charles Villiers. There is still, unfortunately, an expectancy within the unions of a straight basic increase. This is very difficult to overcome.

"There has been a failure in presentation of the original offer of 2 per cent for consolidation, plus up to 10 per cent for achieving increases in efficiency. The efficiency element has been persistently neglected by the media and we have now moved to the position where there is 8 per cent for improvements in the national agreement and a guaranteed 4 per cent for the current year, and schemes are being put forward by the works which show how this amount can be not only earned, but exceeded.

"On the basis of the discussions between BSC and the TUC coordinating committee on December 24, we believed a climate had been created in which there was every reason to believe that an understanding could be reached on December 28 at which the strike would at least have been called off."

He continued: "BSC's position is based on the financial and commercial constraints we are under. It is an attempt to reconcile significant increases in earnings for steelworkers with self-financing of these increases through improved performance by plants in BSC."

"A national increase in line with the going rate for the public sector, which was not linked to increases in efficiency, would price British Steel out of its markets and lead to a vicious circle of lost orders and further substantial losses which would jeopardize the future of BSC plants and a great many jobs in them."

"The final settlement must take account of BSC's overriding need for maximum efficiency, productivity and flexibility between management and process workers and for the national element to be self-financed as far as possible, and to get this delivered. BSC has discussed various ways of achieving this with union

leaders; it has made a generous offer based on those criteria.

"There is absolutely no doubt that a prolonged shut-down would shrink BSC's markets (and those for the whole of British industry), increase import penetration of finished goods and also certainly reduce the chance that BSC's proposed effective steelmaking capacity of 1.5m tonnes will be viable. This in turn would obviously jeopardize the future of plants which BSC currently regards as part of its core business, for example at Ravenscraig and Sheffield, and lead to yet further job losses.

"The Government is supporting the overall objective of the previous Government, i.e. to put the corporation back on the road towards financial viability. The prime duty for this must be on the management and the work force of the corporation."

He continued: "The Government, in our view, should allow the dispute to settle at a level which will permit BSC to continue its progress towards viability by improving its efficiency and costs. It is what any business would want to happen. We do not want intervention which would upset that process."

"We must hope in the interests of the industry that unions and management can solve this dispute as we have done before. Almost no serious negotiation has been allowed by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation heavy committee since it, therefore, the job of BSC to ensure that its offer is fully understood by its work force in all parts of the country to provide an atmosphere in which further negotiations could be fruitful. To get it across in detail is a local job and this is happening more and more. I am glad to say that BSC's operating needs systems of collective bargaining at national and local level which allow unions to negotiate together and which allow local productivity bargaining to take place on a multi-union basis. This would ensure that the interests of all unions were reconciled and that would help the chance of reaching agreements which are generally acceptable to help the efficiency of the industry."

"It is essential that BSC's system of collective bargaining is one in which the unions' responsibility takes into account

the financial circumstances of the industry. I feel that we have gone as far as this with proper negotiation and without the unions ascertaining the views of their members."

"The long-term effect of the dispute", said Sir Charles, "will depend on the way in which it is resolved. If it is resolved in a grey, indecisive way, all the old doubts will remain. The effect on morale will depend above all on whether BSC's work force emerge from it with a reasonable guarantee of future increase—and 12 per cent is not too bad—and greater job security based on a profitable, efficient industry."

"There is a limit to the taxpayers' patience and the White Paper said 'funds required by the BSC will inevitably place a heavy burden on the national revenue. This application of resources to the corporation can only be justified if both management and workforces are committed to achieving viability through competitiveness on an international level'."

"The nation needs to see that a nationalized industry can compete effectively in a tough international market."

"We are very understanding of the work force's worry at the continuing uncertainties but we are hopeful that the work force will come to see that this inevitable process of massive adjustment to a smaller, but stronger industry is now in its final phase and that the majority of jobs in the remaining plants will be more secure."

"There is no great acrimony but there does not seem to be a willingness to resolve the problem. It is an immense disappointment to me because I came along with views on solving our problems in a different way to the feelings expressed very sad. The element of the 'Steel Contract' which has continued its joint consultation and we have had an enormous amount of that up to the announcement of the Corby closure. Why can we not get back into joint consultation? We should look at serious proposals rather than growling at one another."

Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The only way the strike can ever be resolved

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the dominant union in the steel industry, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, is deeply critical of both Government and British Steel, and feels that his strike his union started may only be resolved by third-party intervention.

In response to our questions, he said: "You have to bear in mind that we have been happening over plant closure and the injustices we had to face. We just could not let these things happen. There was a feeling of frustration, that the corporation thought we were insignificant."

"Even that would not have caused the strike but there was a smouldering in the breasts of many people. When the pay offer was presented to us, it was done in a very peculiar manner. It was an arrogance about it, and it seemed to be built on our failure to persuade other unions to support us in a strike over plant closures. BSC thought we were out on a limb, that we were isolated and they could force on us whatever they decided to offer."

"I asked them to reconsider and make a better offer. They went inside and five minutes later said there was more money; that's it, that's the fish. My members were justifiably annoyed about the whole method of negotiation, and asked the executive to take strict action. Our position has been very realistic. We offered considerable concessions they have been waiting for years—anti-union bargaining at plant level. They had this in writing for eight per cent at hand and a five per cent enabling payment for productivity deals at works level. We were absolutely amazed when it was rejected. The offer now is actually worse than what we were originally offered—just the two per cent was new money."

"My members want 20 per cent with no strings attached. That's a straightforward. That's what they are saying. It is even that there has to be some quid pro quo. We are quite prepared to put in a clause accepting productivity agreements at local level. We will accept a reduction in overtime and help with absenteeism, but only for an offer that is acceptable. I would not say must be 'x' per cent. I am prepared to do all I

can to help the industry in its restructuring. They will be asking for more than we want to give them, but that is a matter for negotiation."

"The closure threat is being used to frighten us. But our members couldn't care less about such threats, because they care less about whatever they do BSC will close us. When Sir Keith Joseph says things like that they just ignore him. They have lost all confidence in the industry, and in the management who have been ignoring our arguments about steel output by the strike. But I think their policy on industry is wrong, and if our action persuades them to take another look at their policy that would not surprise me and I think it would be good for the country."

"By 1985, with the proposals we have before us, BSC will have only 13 million tonnes capacity—or at most somewhere near 18 million. That is going to be many millions short of the country's needs when industry picks up."

"I think we need a massive audit of BSC. I would like to take part in it and ask questions. A lot of serious work is going on, a lot of failures and excesses. It might prevent further mistakes, but only if we had a management capable of running the industry without making those mistakes."

"Money was too easily available in 1972. They were throwing it around like confetti. The way they are going now they will ruin us. BSC are sheltering behind an iron-hard Government whose industrial policy will be catastrophic unless they help industry more."

"I am not very happy that we are in dispute. Who can be? It must be one of the biggest disputes since we have been in the industry. The numbers involved are already high. The numbers who will be affected will be terrifically high."

"I am concerned about the impact of the strike. I would like to see it resolved at the earliest moment—but in saying that I shall prosecute it with the utmost vigour in the hope of having success for the membership."

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

China's legal revolution

For nearly two decades, from even before the beginning of the Cultural Revolution in the early 1960s, China has, in effect, had no legal system. During that period laws were abolished, and the courts handed out unpredictable injustice according to the prevailing political wind. The training of lawyers stopped, there were no legal textbooks, no law graduates.

Judges and lawyers were among the first groups to feel the uncompromising savagery of the new ideology. Many were incarcerated without trial, others were sent to work in factories or to the countryside with labour with the peasantry. A few lucky ones found more congenial jobs.

Now, following the overthrow of the Gang of Four, China is anxious to re-establish legal normality. It is trying to restore its legal system and courts structure, make new and effective laws, and bring back the lawyers. It is an appallingly difficult task, but one which the authorities feel to be of crucial importance not only because of the internal stability which a proper legal system encourages, but also to attract the confidence of the outside world at a time when foreign commercial and financial participation in China's economy is being actively sought.

Last week, six comprehensive codes came into force, dealing with criminal law, criminal procedure, the environment, the holding of elections, and local government. To fill the gaps still remaining, it has been decreed that all laws which

were in force before the Cultural Revolution should continue to apply, unless inconsistent with any new laws passed.

Many other codes are in preparation, perhaps the most important being a comprehensive civil code, possibly with a separate economic code. The marriage, divorce and tax law are being revised. The law allowing joint ventures between China and foreign commercial interests is being made more detailed.

It is an interesting phenomenon that most of the codes and laws are based firmly on models provided by the western democracies and Japan, and very little on examples found in the socialist legal systems.

There are probably no more than 100 lawyers in China. Peking, with a population of 8 million, has 30. Shanghai, with 11 million inhabitants, has about 23 lawyers. (The term lawyer does not include the separate category of procurators—public prosecutors—who may or may not be legally trained.) It is a tiny number, but the numbers are totally insufficient to meet the need, and will remain so for some years. China has the advantage of a strong sub-structure of informal mediation and conciliation at the level of the factory, commune or residential unit. These elected mediation committees are clearly successful in resolving minor disputes between family members, neighbours and work colleagues, thus obviating the need for criminal or civil hearings in the courts. But this is not enough. The problem facing the authorities is that,

inevitably, an increasing burden will be placed on the lawyers, not least by the new codes and China's commercial ambitions.

Lawyers are expected to act as advocates in criminal cases (an accused has the right to representation) and as counsel in civil disputes; to mediate in divorce cases; to draft various legal documents; and to act as legal advisers to individuals, state organs, enterprises, schools, and communes.

They are paid by the state, their salary being to some extent based on the number of cases handled. None of the lawyers I spoke to found their employment by the state to be incompatible with their duty to properly represent their clients.

Lawyers are unable to cope with their existing work-load, let alone with the increase which the new laws will bring. There will be some accretion when graduates start flowing out of the law schools and law faculties again, (starting at the end of 1980) and attempts are being made to recruit former lawyers or others with legal experience.

There is a plan for the creation of a class of lawyers who would not be obliged to follow the formal legal training but would learn through being apprenticed in a lawyer's office for one or two years. Some legal work would have to be done by minimally-trained legal workers. The dangers inherent in allowing untrained corps to dominate the legal system are appreciated, but no alternative seems practicable.

Lack of legal manpower is not the only difficulty. "A whole generation has grown up without realizing the importance of law in our society, and without respect for the law," an elderly Peking lawyer told me. Because of the abuses of the Cultural Revolution and the Gang of Four, many people now think of the law as something bad, that can be manipulated to suit whoever has the power at the time. Our job is to educate the masses about the law and legal institutions so that they can have respect for them."

That educative function is taken seriously. There are talks about the law on radio and television. Officials tour the factories, communes and residential areas to give legal information about the new codes in particular and the legal system in general. Local officials carry on the work of educating the people in smaller discussion groups. Trials are publicized in the newspapers, and the results of more serious cases—including those where the death penalty has been imposed—are posted all over the city.

The Chinese leadership realizes that the people will be convinced of the importance of the law only if it is seen to work in practice, without corruption, and without some elitist groups behaving as if they were above it. It may take years before it becomes possible to assess whether that has been achieved.

Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent
To be continued

Geoffrey Smith

Finding the right Scottish voice

A useful means of making Parliament's concern with Scotland evident to the Scottish public will be through the new Select Committee on Scottish Affairs which intends to meet from time to time in Edinburgh and Glasgow and which hopes to have some of its proceedings televised, as George Clark reports on another page.

But what else is being done to find an alternative to the devolution scheme that was effectively killed by the introduction of the Scottish electorate last March?

One of the features of that referendum was that the Conservatives did not campaign simply against the Labour Government's plan for a Scottish Assembly, but they campaigned on the theme of No, but... In other words, the Conservatives were not just defending the status quo. They were posing what they regarded as a bad scheme for devolution, but which they offered to replace with a better one.

The scheme was defeated. The Conservatives were returned to office, and they have indeed taken the initiative for a new referendum. They wrote to the other Labour Party has also campaigned on the theme of No, but... It is a separate exercise to try to improve Parliament's conduct of Scottish affairs. So the hope is that the Government's idea of a State for Scotland, Origin is now that talks will begin that there should be an open or early in February.

The objective, however, is modest. Nothing that is considered would involve any significant change in the way that Scotland is governed. Devolu-

tion is dead for the time being, my friends. It was killed by technical imperfections in the Scottish electorate was not prepared to gamble on a constitutional change of this consequence. The ill-effects in the scheme were, for the most part, either inherent in the concept of devolution or could be removed only by more radical change for which there was no substantial demand in Scotland.

Quite apart from English objections, there is no stomach in Scotland now either for reviving that scheme or for some variation on it. All the parties know this. And the demands for discussions now about a new Assembly are either shadow-boxing or an attempt to establish a position for the future. Nor is there any case for seeking some form of substantive change halfway between devolution, which was itself a compromise, and the status quo.

One possibility that is being canvassed in Scottish Labour circles is for the Scottish Grand Committee to consist of the Scottish MPs only and for it to deal with Scottish legislation. This would certainly be a significant change.

It would mean that the Grand Committee, with the heavy preponderance of Labour MPs from Scotland, would be able to block all contentious legislation placed before it by a Conserva-

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It would mean that the Grand Committee, with the heavy preponderance of Labour MPs from Scotland, would be able to block all contentious legislation placed before it by a Conserva-

tive Government. Any Labour legislation initiated by private members on the committee would be blocked when it came to the floor of the House for third reading. This would be a recipe for perpetual deadlock.

So we are left with tinkering and symbolism. Both may be useful, but they are not what the committee will do its job better if it takes a good deal of evidence in Scotland. There would be no practical advantage in the Grand Committee meeting there and the logistical difficulties will be better appreciated when the members have been stranded once or twice at Turnhouse Airport with a three-line whip at Westminster that evening. But nobody should scorn the value of appearances in the government.

Part of the demand for devolution was a cry for attention, and I believe one of the reasons it ultimately failed to command sufficient support was that in passing the legislation Parliament had already shown that the better part of two sessions to the future of Scotland. The sense of neglect had been assuaged. It might be assuaged still further if all Scottish committees at Westminster were televised.

This combination of tinkering and symbolism accords with the present state of Scottish opinion. It is justified by the present, but it does not justify the past. It does not justify the campaign of No, but... There was a time when the Labour Government was an honourable case for campaigning against an Assembly. To campaign on the lines of "No, but..." was misleading because it implied a serious alternative which does not exist.

Charles Hargrove

NORMANDY DIARY

Creating Sunday best in the village

The event did not hit the headlines, even of the *Renaissance du Bessin* of Bayeux, which proudly proclaims itself the "first newspaper of liberated France"—someone had forgotten to inform it that it was taking place. But French villages torn are struggling to survive in the face of the rural exodus; and the attraction of the bright lights, and work in the cities. My own little Norman village, buried in the depths of the Bessin, the region around Bayeux of tapestry fame, with its small enclosed fields and pastures, sunken roads and tall hedgerows, the veterans of D-Day know so well, does not even enjoy the dubious blessing of Parisians' "secondary residences," like others between Bayeux and the sea, to

give it a sort of bogus air of activity and prosperity at week-ends. Before the war, the population was up to 200. But it is now down to 120, and there are ruined houses here and there whose inhabitants will never return. The village school was down to nine last term, and after years of struggling to continue, has now finally closed down. Its premises, which also house the village shop and café which has only been half open for the past year or so, speak, and has now also put up its shutters.

The village church, the heart of its life for something like seven centuries, it has a fine Romanesque nave and a weathercock proudly topping its tower—its empty and still most of the time. Surraint lost its parish priest, a good many years ago, and was amalgamated with five other parishes round about. Priests are few and far between, and the faith-

ful have to gather for Mass on Sunday, at Fornigny, near by. It only comes to life, my village church, for christenings, weddings and funerals. But the other day it was full. All the villagers were in their Sunday best. The local council headed by its tall handsome mayor was there to a man and sat on either side of the altar. An electric organ had been brought in to grace the occasion, instead of the old dusty harmonium, which has given up the ghost. Just before the ceremony began, there was a little hitch. The altar was bare. Someone had overlooked the flowers, of which there is a profusion in every front and back garden. But this was soon forgotten. The little community was gathered to celebrate the revival of one symbol of village life—the return of its bells.

In a sense it was a non-event. The bells have been there, two of them, in the tower all the time. Until a year or so ago, an elderly woman

would walk over to the church three times a day from her house near by to ring the Angelus by hand. She was not always punctually personified. But that was not the reason why she, too, had to go—that Angelus had become an extravagance. It cost 5,000 francs a year in wages and social security, out of a budget of 87,000 francs, which includes the upkeep of some 22 kilometres of roads. So the council decided, with the help of a subsidy from the department, to electrify them. For a year or so, while the work went on, they were silent, but six months ago, they rang out again. Some of the younger people felt that to speak francs (people here still reckon in old francs) on electrifying bells which did not even strike the hours (there is no clock in the tower, and there are very few in this district) was an absurd extravagance.

But, in a village, as life, even if our two do not



make up a very harmonious peal", the elderly Curé said in his homely little sermon, a gem of rustic oratory well suited to the occasion. "Even if they do not have the deep resonance of the bourbons of our cathedrals, they are a means of expression of all community life. They ring out our Angelus. They thus mark the village ring out in our valleys and hills, one paused and turned one's thoughts to God; the ploughman recited his Ave Maria at the end of the day. I can still hear the farmer of my native district telling the people of the village as they came back from the fields: 'the weather is in change, for the wind

carries the sound of the bells from the next village.' "In theurgy of this Mass, we have sung the refrain of Psalm 94: 'Today let us not close our hearts, but listen to the voice of the Lord.' Bells are also an echo of the voice of God. Because they are lodged in the steeples or towers of our churches, our bells have above all a religious function. Before they were rung, they received the blessing of the church. A bishop came to bless them—to baptise them, as one used to say. In an old ritual of benediction of bells, I read that they had the power to repel the incursions of evil spirits, to ward off lightning and storms, to draw the benediction of heaven on the people of God."

This morning they called us to celebrate God's praise, to hear his word, and his word this morning was to remind us of the great commandment of Christian life, that of fraternal charity. The Lord in his Gospel calls upon us to endow our

relations with the inhabitants of a same village with a spirit of understanding, of conciliation, of charity. That is the language of the Lord borne to us by those messengers which are the bells of our village. Each time we shall hear their voices of bronze, let us not close our hearts, let us not close our ears, let us not close our minds, let us not close our hearts as the messengers of the Lord. The rebirth of our bells is the rejuvenation of our little community of Surraint. Thanks be to the municipality and all those who helped us to rediscover their voice."

Marie, Celestine, Henriette, Alberte? What was their name? The Curé regretted he had not been able to mention them during the ceremony; no one had climbed the steeple to check beforehand. But at the end of it the mayor, at his invitation, slipped into the vestry and pressed the magic button that set them in motion and they rang out joyfully.



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MAKING A START AT GAZA

One could hardly speak of a breakthrough in the talks which ended yesterday in Aswan between Mr. Begin and President Sadat. Egypt and Israel remain far apart on the extent of the powers to be exercised by the proposed self-governing authority in the West Bank and Gaza, and also on whether East Jerusalem should fall within its jurisdiction or not. But there is a hint of a possible way forward in Mr. Begin's statement that he will recommend his government to accept Mr. Sadat's proposal that autonomy should be applied in Gaza first. That is welcome, and it is not an easy step for Mr. Begin to have taken.

There are a number of reasons why agreement on autonomy for the Gaza Strip might be easier to achieve than agreement on autonomy for the two territories together. First and most obviously, it sidesteps the issue of Jerusalem altogether. Secondly, Egypt, which administered the strip from 1948 to 1967, retains some influence there and might find it easier to persuade local leaders to involve themselves than it would in the West Bank so long as King Hussein remains firmly abstentionist. Thirdly, Israelis might find it easier to go along with the idea of an autonomous Gaza Strip associated with Egypt than with the idea of an autonomous West Bank separate from

Jordan and looking at least potentially like the embryo of an independent Palestinian state. Fourthly, the Gaza Strip, having been inhabited in biblical times by Philistines, has less emotional significance for Israelis than do Judea and Samaria. The chances of removing Israeli settlements there, or at least of preventing the establishment of new ones, are better.

Unfortunately, reasons why things might be acceptable to Israelis tend to be reasons why they might not be acceptable to Palestinians. At present the latter are unanimous in rejecting the very notion of autonomy, even in the whole of the West Bank as well as Gaza, arguing that it would merely oblige them to administer their own affairs according to the dictates of Israel, which would retain effective power. There is an element of rhetoric in this position, although unfortunately some of the actions and statements of the Israeli government have tended to support the rhetoric rather than expose it.

In reality many if not most of the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza would be glad to have autonomy if it meant the withdrawal of Israeli troops and an end to the encroachment of Israeli settlers on Arab land, and especially if it were a step towards Israel's complete and permanent withdrawal from the

area and recognition of Arab (preferably Palestinian) sovereignty over them. That is precisely what Israel, at any rate under its present government, does not want; so far as limiting the experiment to Gaza in the first instance would reassure Israel that this was not going to happen it would be correspondingly uninteresting to the Palestinian Arabs and less likely that the Palestine Liberation Organization would allow the local inhabitants to get involved. (Thanks to a mixture of intimidation and genuine popular support, the PLO has an effective veto over the participation of any significant local leaders.)

The best chance of a Gaza agreement going ahead would be if it were seen by the Palestinian Arabs as a useful precedent for the West Bank. The Israelis, being well aware of this, will obviously not want to make any concessions on Gaza which will embarrass them when it comes to the West Bank. For that reason it is not even certain that the Israeli government will accept Mr. Begin's recommendation; but quite certain that if they do, negotiations on the powers of the self-governing authority will still be extremely difficult. It is worth a try, but its chances of success would certainly be better if Israel would agree to a moratorium on further settlement in the West Bank while the experiment in Gaza was in progress.

CHURCH AND POLITICS IN LATIN AMERICA

The Roman Catholic Church has taken a particularly strong stand in many parts of Latin America in recent years on policies of repression, economic deprivation and other issues that can be regarded as political. Not all members of the hierarchy have agreed with this new orientation, which contrasts with the years of tending to side with the more established and conservative sectors of society. For many it is altogether too leftist. But at a time when much of the region has been dominated by military governments that have been both repressive and inclined to ignore the situation of the poor, the case of the progressives has been much strengthened. They set the Church on a new path at the conference of Latin American bishops held at Medellin, in Colombia, in 1968, when conclusions were adopted that denounced existing conditions and called for support for change. Last year, at the follow-up conference held in Puebla, in Mexico, the basic orientation of Medellin was confirmed, despite of a determined campaign against it by the more conservative members of the episcopacy. The conclusions of the Puebla conference are published in Britain today. This in itself is indicative of the greater interest, both here and elsewhere, in the activities of the Latin American Church, since the conclusions of the Medellin conference were never published here. They show

that even though attempts were made to stage-manage Puebla by conservatives in the Episcopal Council of Latin America, and though many of the leading progressive thinkers were simply not invited, the Church as a whole has endorsed the more activist role. "From the depths of the countries that make up Latin America a cry is rising to heaven, growing louder and more alarming all the time," the bishops declare. "It is the cry of a suffering people who demand justice, freedom, and respect for the basic rights of human beings and peoples." They denounce the growing gap between rich and poor, abuses of power leading to arbitrary detention, torture and exile, and the lack of social participation. They declare support for work among the peasants wanting to share in decisions affecting them and for their right to organize.

The final document was, of course, a compromise, and the progressives did not have it all their way by any means. The doctrinal sections are conservative, reflecting the concerns of Pope John Paul II, who opened the conference. The theology of liberation that particularly Latin American creation which involves a call for radical political and social change, is not explicitly mentioned. But it is not condemned, either, and this is regarded as very important by its adherents, since the conservatives had set out to have it condemned.

MY ENEMY'S ENEMY IS MY FRIEND

From the day of Dr. Kissinger's secret landing in Peking in 1971 it has been an axiom of American foreign policy that the hot line between Washington and Moscow was the only one that mattered; no other could have equal global significance. Let China regain her old place in American affections if it should so turn out, though it was unlikely that the America of the seventies could ever revert to the emotions of the forties. The Russians were known to be tense and exasperated by Chinese behaviour, in which case it was best not to play the "China card". Yet has it not at the very least been held visibly in the hand during Mr. Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary's, visit to Peking, just at the moment of President Carter's punitive moves against the Soviet action in Afghanistan?

Obviously the Chinese cannot conceal their delight that a visit arranged last summer should have coincided with the Soviet action and justified their reiterated warnings that détente was a Soviet ruse, not to be trusted. The speeches in Peking have been fulsome and confident. Mr. Deng Xiaoping has told Mr.

Brown that the best answer to Soviet action would be a line-up of all those powers shocked by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan: the United States and her western allies on one flank joined by China and Japan in the East. This would be the very reverse of the Asian security treaty unsuccessfully floated by Mr. Brezhnev several years ago in an attempt to contain China. From China's standpoint it would be an effective demonstration, part of the continuing strategy that would neutralize Russian power.

Judging by Russian retorts they are disturbed by Mr. Brown's visit to Peking. Allegations about the "imperialistic and hegemonic" policy being followed by China and the United States could conceal real anxieties. Sino-American relations have undoubtedly been advanced by Mr. Brown's visit. The two countries say they agree about Afghanistan. The intention to supply China with a Landsat-D surveillance satellite—which the Chinese asked for a year ago—raises China above the level of technological supplies to Russia. That will be wounding at the very least. The mere discussion of China's role in any joint

action to counter the Russians in Afghanistan will also excite Russian suspicion. There is no harm in that. If the China card has been visibly displayed in Peking this week that need be only a natural extension of the great game.

Such Sino-American cooperation is justifiable in the situation that has arisen; it need not be unduly restrained. Mr. Deng is not likely to get quite the line-up he wants, nor can the discussions in Peking with Mr. Brown be defined as, or lead to, a Sino-American alliance. Neither side has in mind anything so precise or binding. Moreover China's tiny border with Afghanistan at the eastern end of the Wakhan strip is of no military or political significance, so far as it is from any centre of population in all four of the adjacent countries. China's possible involvement with Afghanistan is not to be compared with the very real concern in Peking at the Russian friendship treaty with Vietnam. No new risks have been incurred by Mr. Brown's talks and much good may follow from them. This has been an exercise in world strategy that should influence Moscow as much if not more than a shortfall in wheat.

Allegations about mental hospitals

From Mr. W. R. von Straubenzee, MP for Wokingham (Conservative). Sir, Late on December 20 Mr. Speaker kindly allowed me to raise on the adjournment of the House, the question of allegations made two years before of grave irregularities at Church Hill House Hospital at Bracknell, a hospital which cares for some 270 profoundly mentally handicapped patients. The allegations included cruelty and violence to patients, misuse of drugs, misappropriation of patients' money and the acceptance of bribes by members of the staff.

These sensational allegations were the subject of a lengthy and painstaking inquiry chaired by Mr. Christopher Baumgart, QC. It is a fair summary of a detailed report that it dismissed all the allegations as totally without foundation, other than for two of detail, one of which had not formed part of the original accusations. Yet for two years the unfortunate nursing, medical and administrative staff had to care for their patients with a cloud of suspicion hanging over them.

It has now been wholly removed, but only at a cost to the funds of the Berkshire Area Health Authority of £50,000. In one sense this is completely wasted expenditure at a time when money is short.

I believe our experience is part of a wider trend which should cause concern. Every responsible person connected with the care of mentally ill or mentally handicapped patients recognizes that their patients are particularly vulnerable. Any alleged irregularity must therefore be relentlessly pursued into, any failure ruthlessly punished.

But what is not so often recognized is that those caring for such patients are themselves particularly vulnerable by virtue of the restraint which is frequently necessary to a lesser or greater degree as part of the treatment. This surely imposes on those who make such allegations a particular duty to do so responsibly.

In our case the story followed a familiar pattern. First generalized allegations were made, greatly distressing to those involved. Then the "no smoke without fire" argument appears. This is followed by calls for a public inquiry, itself a traumatic experience for those whose careers may be at stake.

Yet, in our case, no effort was made to use the recognized procedures for the investigation of complaints. Exactly the same pattern has lately been followed in relation to allegations about Broadmoor Hospital, also in my constituency. In both cases the national press took part in the resulting publicity.

I believe the time has come for public opinion to rally to the defence of the staffs concerned. In our case the attack was a combination of political opportunism and ruthless local journalism. In others it is the product of interference by those who employ professionals, some of whom move around from one such organization to another, and who depend for their fund raising and hence their salaries on being in the public eye.

Yours faithfully,
W. R. VON STRAUBENZEE,
House of Commons,
January 9.

Protesting freedom

From Lord Shapcott, QC. Sir, Mr. Bennion (January 9) is mistaken. I certainly would not presume to suggest that the law lords are incompetent, nor have I lost faith in our judges as protectors of individual liberties, although I deplored the fact that in interpreting Acts of Parliament some judges are evidently less robust than others.

The fault is ultimately with the legislators: who have evidently framed statutes in terms so ambiguous or obscure as to be capable of such very different interpretations as these put upon them by the recent conflicting decisions of the House of Lords and the Court of Appeal. It is to provide a general background of invariable individual liberties which are not to be overridden by statutory enactments in the light of which such statutes are to be interpreted by the courts that a Bill of Rights would be valuable. That has proved to be the case elsewhere. Britain has itself insisted on such provisions in the Constitution of former colonial territories, and the experience in Europe, although short, has already proved useful.

Yours faithfully,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
House of Lords.

Race in the 1981 Census

From Mr. Alex Lyon, MP for York (Labour). Sir, I am very concerned about the reports that the Government are disposed to reject an ethnic question in the census. They are apparently acting on the results of an Office of Population Censuses and Surveys test in Glasgow which was carried out with little consultation with ethnic groups and no real explanation of the need for the question.

It is of crucial importance that full national information about the degree of racial disadvantage is available and only the census can give a national picture. Surveys like that of Political and Economic Planning use only test samples and are inadequate to plan a national policy. For that reason section 11 of the 1966 Act has never been properly implemented and now that the Ethnic Groups Bill has not been accepted by a Conservative Government, there is no suitable alternative.

Those who oppose the question are doing a serious disservice to the ethnic minority groups and I hope they will reconsider their position quickly. Yours faithfully,
ALEX LYON,
House of Commons.

Comparisons in the steel industry

From the Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the British Steel Corporation.

Sir, I was interested to read Mr. Ugham's letter (January 10) commenting on the article of the previous day, giving performance comparisons between the British Steel Corporation and Japan.

One such Japanese works is the NKK plant of Fukuyama, which produces 16 million metric tonnes per year with a workforce of 31,000, including contract labour, in varied forms of finished steel product, such as tube, plate, sheet, coil and sections. Although this type of works has been adversely commented upon from time to time in pursuit of the "small is beautiful" argument, it nevertheless represents by its cost and quality performance the supreme example of commercial competitiveness, which other steel producers—including the British Steel Corporation—have to face in world markets.

In 1975 I visited this works with Mr. Sirs, of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, and Mr. E. Linton, representing our craftsmen, and observed and discussed with the Japanese their approach to the employment of their workforce and the achievement of such high levels of productivity. Incidentally, the average age of the workforce at that time was 30.

We saw the flexibility and commitment with which the Japanese man and operate their works.

Many other works in Japan were also visited, including those referred to in your letter, and their conditions equally observed and recorded. Although we cannot emulate the Japanese culture, the need remains to find similar solutions which suit our own particular way of life. In the new steelworks in Sheffield was built and commissioned, our unions agreed manpower figures equal to those to be found in similar Japanese works.

The sticking problem, however, is what do we do in the long-term? As Mr. Talbot, Mr. Linton, Mr. Scutcliffe and the other parts of Teesside?

The visit to Japan resulted in a comprehensive Joint Report, which it was hoped would be widely circulated within the British Steel Corporation, as well as with the unions, and would form the basis of a Corporation conference as to how we might proceed, particularly in respect of the interface between operatives and craftsmen. This hope was shattered, no such agreement was forthcoming. Our national trades union officers, and the Report was suppressed.

Mr. Ugham's letter confirms the non-acceptance of the brutal commercial fact that our costs are uncompetitive in many of our

products. This is at the heart of our present dispute in respect of wages.

We have now good equipment which is neither as effectively managed nor operated as it should be. The solution lies in a higher degree of motivation to greater efficiency at plant level, rather than the diversions of quasi political arguments at national level.

This is the fact that management and workforce in the British Steel Corporation have to face up to. Yours faithfully,
R. SCHOLEY,
British Steel Corporation,
33 Grosvenor Place, SW1.

From Dr. Shackleton Bailey. Sir, You report that Sir Charles Williams said that the steelmen were looking for "Pennies from Heaven". Less devoutly, this can be termed "Pounds from Taxpayers", who out of their real earnings are already providing a subsidy to men whose jobs have disappeared as well as considerable subsidies to maintain what remains of their industries.

The basic position which steelmen and others have to face is that they cannot be paid "the going rate" for jobs that no longer exist. In effect, these strikers are demanding that they shall be kept on unemployment benefit at a rate far in excess of the going rate for this; drawing it through the factory office rather than queuing up for the subsidised allowance alongside other unfortunate people who are no less deserving of real jobs and high earnings.

This is grossly unfair to their mates on the dole as well as to the taxpayer who is already making reasonable provision for the increasing number of people whose jobs are disappearing under the pressures of world recession and technological change. Payment of unemployment benefit at current rates for perhaps two million jobless in the near future is daunting enough without the prospect of catering for a privileged minority drawing dole at the going rate for jobs that no longer exist and they were formerly "employed".

Yours etc.
SHACKLETON BAILEY,
The Old Mill,
Blockley,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

From Mr. B. P. Davis. Sir, Without going into the rights and wrongs of the steel strike, I would appreciate guidance on a particular aspect. Can someone please explain the logic of permitting strikers to claim Supplementary Benefits whilst the major union involved is not paying strike pay? Yours faithfully,
B. P. DAVIS,
36 Harman Drive, NW2.

Invasion of Afghanistan

From Lord Perth. Sir, The United States of America has, rightly, stopped the export of 17 million tons of grain and other foodstuffs to Russia. It is to be hoped that the European Community will follow suit and no longer seek to export their butter, sugar or meat mountains to Russia on give-away terms.

What should we then do with the resultant food surpluses? There are millions in the Third World who are near to starving. Isn't this a tremendous opportunity for us to give these foodstuffs to the starving millions? This will cost us much in money terms and upset present budgets; but we should make this sacrifice so that out of all comes good. Yours truly,
PERTH,
Stobhill, by Perth.

Bridge Over the Kwae

From Mr. R. W. N. Bishop. Sir, It is interesting to read about the Indian Army's experiences in Afghanistan last century, but that bears no relation to what the Russian invasion of Afghanistan in 1980. If you want to turn to the past, the Mongol invasion of Europe in the thirteenth century is more educational.

Highly trained and disciplined soldiers, willing to put up with hardship of every kind; a leadership devoid of any moral or humanitarian scruples—informed by one aim only: conquest.

The Mongols achieved their aims; if they turned back to Asia in 1242, because of the Great Khan's death as they wanted to play their part in the succession, this was great good luck for Hungary, Poland and the rest of Europe.

Reports from Afghan leaders fleeing to Pakistan about the murder of their families and the destruction of villages by the Russians are indications of what kind of campaigns will be waged against the Moslem rebels; with sufficient modern equipment and hard military planning the Russians will succeed where the British failed a hundred years ago, especially as those sympathizing with the Moslem rebels are not helping them with urgent arms and supply deliveries.

In 1956 the Hungarian Freedom Fighters were treated to exactly the same manner. The outcome of Afghanistan's occupation by the Russians will be as successful as their occupation of Hungary. Yours, etc.
JUDITH LISTOWEL,
9 Halsey Street, SW3.

From Professor R. Browning, FBA. Sir, Amid the general indignation over Soviet action in Afghanistan we seem to have forgotten Cyprus, part of which for five years has been under armed occupation by a foreign power. Today the Foreign Secretary goes to Ankara to reassure the Turks that armed aggression against a sovereign, and non-aligned, state will not be tolerated.

Some of us who shared the initial disquiet over Soviet measures are now beginning to wonder whether there is not one law for NATO members and another for adherents to the Warsaw Pact. Be that as it may, a stand against aggression in 1974 might have prevented its recurrence in 1979.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
ROBERT BROWNING,
17 Belzite Park Gardens, NW3,
January 9.

bridge. To the best of my knowledge there were at that time no other prisoners in the vicinity. The bridge was already being built by the Japanese. Any memorial at that place would be inappropriate. The unimpressive notice has the virtue of being historically correct.

Anyone wishing to have a true picture of the terrain covered should travel by train from Kanchanaburi to the present railhead some miles north of Wong Po. Along this route can be seen some of the feats of improvised engineering which cost so many lives. Yours faithfully,
R. W. N. BISHOP,
34 Derwent Road,
Stoneycroft,
Liverpool

Whim Wham

From Miss Audrey Hogston. Sir, I was delighted to see a recipe for "Whim Wham" on your cookery page. Not only did it sound delicious, but it reminded me that when, as a little girl, I asked my mother what was in the broth—or any similar dish—she would answer "Whim Whams and goose's bridges". I have often wondered whether this was a typical example of her nonsense or a Londoner's saying of which she had a remarkable knowledge. Do any of your readers know the expression and is there any hope that we may shortly be given a recipe for goose's bridges? Yours faithfully,
AUDREY HOGSTON,
89 Marsh Road,
Pinner, Middlesex.

The Ulster conundrum

From Mr and Mrs Tony Finch. Sir, Hugh Munro has once again analysed the Ulster conundrum very shrewdly (*The Times*, January 8). Once again, understandably, he shrinks from following his logic through to its conclusion.

If "Unionism" as a political term is both redundant and bogus (as he suggests, and we would agree); if integration with mainland Britain would be regarded by the British public as inappropriate to the point of impertinence; if British participation masquerading as British loyalty to the Province is Westminster's perennial response to living with the threat of massive Protestant violence; and if the Republic of Ireland neither wants, understands, likes, nor feels particularly at home with the majority of those in Northern Ireland, then what follows is certainly not what Mr. Munro suggests. It is not what anybody currently suggests.

What follows must be that the overseas sectarian dependency known as Northern Ireland must find its own place independently of Britain and of the Republic. This would mean not only constitutional change, but also withdrawal of the expensive, untalked-of life support system the British taxpayer provides. (Which is surely going to happen one day anyway; do we suppose that Northern Ireland is going to be a permanent military camp, in its demands for industrial and social funding?)

Small wonder that Mr. Munro shies at such fences. So do we. But since nothing less radical has proved effective, something more radical may well be what's needed. Turning back the finger-marked pages of the tale that has failed in convince before is forlorn. Without a fundamental reassessment of options, no exercise will produce a "solution". It will not even provide a temporary framework sufficiently durable to permit gradual progress.

Yours faithfully,
TONY FINCH,
GAY FIRTH,
59 Finghall,
Hampstead, NW3.

Assisted places scheme

From Mr. Keith Turner. Sir, It is not surprising that Mr. Merlyn Rees, writing on January 7 as a Liberal Member of Parliament, finds the Assisted Places Scheme objectionable. Might I suggest and I write without affiliation) that from a Conservative viewpoint it is even more so?

The development of a truly public system of secondary education during the last century has been more than in France, Germany or most of the United States, is associated principally with the names of A. J. Balfour and Lord Butler. Is it not time that the Conservative Party recalled their achievement with a little more pride?

Not so many years ago the Prime Minister entered Oxford as an undergraduate, fewer than one in five of her contemporaries came to the aid, from a maintained school. Today, thanks very largely to the efforts of certain Balfour and Butler Acts, as well as to a great deal of devoted teaching, the proportion is nearly 50 per cent.

Like the Headmaster of Clifton (December 31), I believe that in certain areas and at certain times it is desirable for certain children to be publicly assisted to take places in certain independent schools. But this, as he knows, is perfectly possible already under powers held by local authorities, and indeed also by the Department of Education and Science.

So surely now, in the 1980s just as in the 1900s and 1940s, is a time when the Government should devote all its resources and energies to the task of maintaining a sound system of public education, without extravagant "assisted places" for a few strong one's sympathies may be for the independent sector, it is at very least an infelicitous piece of drafting in Section 17(1) of the Education Bill, which refers to "the benefit from education at independent schools".

More serious, though, is the doubt which these words and these proposals inevitably raise about the fidelity of the Government to the public sector of education for which it is constitutionally responsible. It is strongly to be hoped that this will soon appear to have been only a temporary aberration from a proud tradition.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH TURNER,
Headmaster,
Warford Grammar School,
Rickmansworth Road,
Watford.

You never can tell

From Mr. John Carswell. Sir, I never thought it would be necessary to defend Bernard Shaw from a charge of penuriousness. However, Mr. Wood (January 7) is mistaken in saying Shaw's benevolence to journalism was confined to *The Political Quarterly*.

In April, 1907, Shaw provided £500 towards reviving *The New Age* under the then totally unknown A. R. Orage, and it became the principal propaganda weekly of the decade. What is more, Shaw wrote for it free. Admittedly, like the good businessman he was, he insisted that Orage should find another £500, which he did by calling on a mysterious person generally known as "M. B. Oxon". Yours faithfully,
JOHN CARSWELL,
5 Prince Arthur Road, NW3.

Legal training grants

From Miss Virginia Bovell. Sir, John Harwood Stevenson includes "distractions for" as one of the enabling assets for anyone going to the Bar (December 31). It is clearly even harder for a woman to become a barrister than I had hitherto imagined. Yours faithfully,
VIRGINIA BOVELL,
Lady Margaret Hall,
Oxford.

Voluntary welfare groups

From Mr. Nicholas Hinton. Sir, It would be a retrograde step if, as Ian Bradley suggests in his article, "Hospital strikes: how far should volunteers go?" (*The Times*, January 4), the particular issue of voluntary organizations and volunteers working in hospitals (or, for that matter, in education, social services and other welfare services) becomes a matter of dispute between political parties. The contribution of voluntary organizations and volunteers to welfare service in general is one part of a much more fundamental question about the future shape and organization of such services in this country.

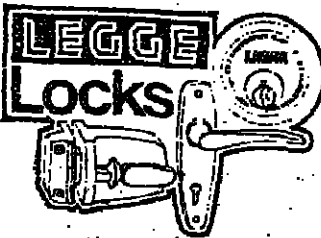
Despite the considerable achievements that have followed the post-war welfare legislation, experience has shown that our services leave much to be desired. This is not just a matter of insufficient resources to meet growing needs; services

have been criticized on the one hand for failing to achieve egalitarianism and on the other hand for eroding freedom of choice. More important, many statutory programmes fail to achieve their stated goal: the high-rise housing solution of yesterday is fit today for the demolition squad, too often our schools fail to equip young people in such basic skills as numeracy and literacy, our penal system tends to exacerbate rather than reduce criminal behaviour. Most important, our services suffer from over-centralized planning whereby a blueprint of a school, a social services department or a probation service is replicated all over the country without due regard to different local demands. Such a system militates against flexibility, adaptability to new and changing needs and the involvement of the public.

Such criticism indicates the need for a much more broadly based approach to the provision of ser-

vices: an approach that does far more to encourage local groups (including voluntary organizations) to provide services, including many of those now provided by statutory authorities. Government, central and local, has the responsibility for collecting and ensuring the equitable distribution of taxpayers' and ratepayers' money. But it is questionable whether the extent of the statutory authorities' involvement in, for example, many of the social services, housing programmes, educational services, or projects for offenders, is the most effective way of responding to the changing and challenging demands of the eighties or to secure an increased commitment and involvement from members of the public.

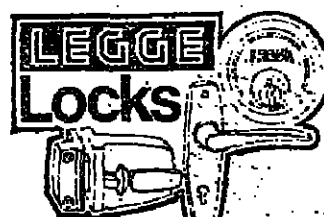
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
Director,
National Council of Social Service,
26 Bedford Square, WCL
January 7.



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

مكتبة الأعمال



Stock markets	
FT Ind 430.8 up 7.3	
FT Gilt 65.83 up 0.49	
Sterling	
\$2.2395 down 70 pts	
Index 70.9 down 0.2	
Dollar	
Index 84.3 up 0.1	
Gold	
\$600.5 an ounce down 59.5	
3-month money	
Inter-bank 16 1/2 to 16 13/16	
Euro \$ 14 5/16 to 14 7/16	

IN BRIEF

Laird chief joins board of British Shipbuilders

Mr John Gardner, chief executive of the Laird Group, has been made a part-time member of the board of British Shipbuilders for two years, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, announced yesterday.

Mr Gardner has been a non-executive director of British Airways and British Leyland and a member of the National Enterprise Board. He is a non-executive director of Courtalds and has been chief executive of the Laird Group since 1970.

Mr John Gardner

Italians fined £9.4m

An Italian building contractor and his wife have been fined £9.4m and jailed for five and three years respectively for illegally exporting currency. They set up companies in Switzerland and Liechtenstein to own property and redeveloped in Genoa.

Research centre

Micro Focus, a London computer software company, is to set up a research and development centre at Swindon, Wiltshire. Swindon council is campaigning to attract high-technology companies, such as electronics and pharmaceuticals, to the area.

Strikes hit output

Last year's engineering strikes were largely responsible for a 7 per cent decline in the industry's output in the third quarter. Mechanical engineering was hardest hit, with a fall of 8 per cent on the previous quarter.

Car production falls

Disputes inside and outside the motor industry were the chief cause of a steep fall in Britain's car production last year. Sales were a record 1.7 million, but domestic output fell by 12.8 per cent compared with 1978 to 1,067,000.

Meccano shutdown

Management and union representatives used last night to discuss the outcome of talks on the Meccano factory shutdown in Liverpool. Workers have been occupying the plant in protest at the closure and redundancy terms for 940 staff.

Rosy outlook for 1980

West German business and industry could face the future with confidence, despite the forecast slowdown this year, according to the German Industry Federation (BDI). "The year 1980 has a well-consolidated base, and the expected slowdown in economic growth will not affect this at all," BDI said.

Public sector borrowing almost certain to exceed £8,300m target

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The public sector borrowing requirement seems increasingly likely to exceed the official target of £8,300m in the current financial year. The main issue now is almost certainly whether or not the final outcome for the PSBR will be above or below £9,000m.

This is in spite of the measures announced in November by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to correct a probable overshoot. The fact at that stage was that the PSBR would be some £700m over target, largely as a result of the delay in collecting telephone revenue.

To correct this the Government accelerated payments of Petroleum Revenue tax, but even with this it still seems likely to face a significantly larger PSBR than expected.

The reasons for this lie on both the expenditure and revenue sides of the equation. On the expenditure side yesterday's central government borrowing figures for December show that in the first nine months of the financial year the consolidated fund expenditure was running 17 per cent ahead of the corresponding period of last year. This compares with a budgeted increase of 15 per cent for the full year.

Although expenditure had been expected to run some way ahead of the 15 per cent norm in the first half of the year, the rate of increase had also been expected to start falling back as the year wore on. Supply Service expenditure, the largest element in Consolidated Fund expenditure, appears to remain buoyant, and it increasingly looks as if the allowance for

shortfall made in this year's spending plans is going to prove over-optimistic. That does not, however, necessarily mean that the cash limits laid down by the Government come under pressure.

In terms of revenue the main item of concern continues to be the sluggish payment of Value Added Tax. While the Government feels there is no reason to reduce its estimates of the amount of VAT that should fall due in the present financial year, it is clear that many businesses are simply not paying up on time. This may be because some are under financial pressure at the moment, or because they are making use of the liquidity available to them to put money on deposit at the high rates of interest currently obtainable.

Although the Inland Revenue recently increased the penalties for late payment of tax, the Customs and Excise authorities, who are responsible for the collection of VAT, have no powers to sharpen the very modest penalties they can apply. The Government does, however, have the power to accelerate VAT payments by moving to monthly, as opposed to the present quarterly collections, though it apparently does not intend to invoke this power at this stage.

VAT payments apart, the Government's revenue has been flowing reasonably well. In the first nine months of the year it has been running 19 per cent ahead of the corresponding period of 1978-79. The official forecast is for an 18 per cent increase over the full year.

Overall central government borrowing in 1979 was £1,662m (against £1,448m in

December, 1978), bringing the total for the first nine months of the financial year up to £10,073m. This compares with £7,837m at the corresponding stage of last year and a full-year forecast for the CGBR (as opposed to the PSBR) of £9,564m. Not only is the last quarter of the year the main tax-gathering season, however, but this year there will be additional revenue in the final quarter of some £1,500m. This includes the accelerated PRT payments, the proceeds of the BNO's advanced oil sales and proceeds from the disposal of public sector assets, notably the second instalment of the sale of BP shares.

More seriously, the Government is concerned about the probability of exceeding its PSBR in 1979. It is not clear at this stage, however, that at least some relief in the fact that the City already appears to be well prepared for a PSBR outturn of around £9,000m.

Yesterday the gilt-edged market was in a bullish enough mood to exhaust supplies of the long-dated "tap" stock. Treasury 14 per cent, 1998-2001. Supplies were finally exhausted at a price of 96 1/2—the stock was originally offered at 95 1/2—and market estimates put sales of the stock yesterday at £400m to £500m.

The Government had rather more modest success with its new stock offering, Exchequer 14 per cent, 1984. In this case it is thought that £100m to £200m of the new £1,000m stock were sold on application. What was less clear, however, was the extent to which the authorities' sales were straight sales or involved switching operations.

Financial Editor, page 19

Waddington incurs £3m loss on video games

By Alison Mitchell

A near £3m loss on television video games by Monopoly manufacturer John Waddington took the City by surprise yesterday.

News that first half profits had slipped into deficit initially knocked the share price lower but as short term speculators covered their positions and long term investors took advantage of the equity weakness, the shares ended the day 12p higher at 130p.

Waddington's has had problems with Videomaster since it bought the company from the receiver in July 1978 for £700,000. A typhoon in the Philippines put the group's major supplier out of action, resulting in the videos missing the Christmas market, and they were no luckier last year.

Mr Victor Watson, the chairman, admitted that the Videomaster management was too late in ordering supplies and a shortage of components led to the group once again failing to deliver in time for Christmas. As a result, Waddington's had to make a £2.9m provision to cover this year's losses.

In the six months to October 14, 1979, the group turned in a loss of £418,000 compared to a profit of £1.6m in the previous period. Sales rose from £25m to £30m.

Because of the difficulties in obtaining components and the resulting changes in design, Waddington's found that the games it did produce which sell at between £20 and £50, were too expensive for the market. Videomaster is now being linked with Waddington's House of Games subsidiary which already has its own successful electronic products.

Waddington's other divisions had a good first half. The packaging and printing side showed a steady improvement on the previous year and the games division also improved its contribution. The interim dividend is maintained at 7.46p gross.

Industry criticized for slowness in adapting to new technologies

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

Although British industry is generally well aware of the improvements advanced technologies can make in both efficiency and products, acceptance by industry remains sluggish—particularly in key sectors such as machine tools and office equipment.

This message was spelled out to the meeting of the National Economic Development Council earlier this week by Mr Geoffrey Chandler, director-general of the National Economic Development Office.

In a memorandum presented by Mr Chandler and released for publication today, he said reports from the NEDO committees and sector working parties had pinpointed a number of reasons for this state of affairs.

First, potential users did not know enough about the applications of the new technologies in their own sectors.

Secondly, management and unions feared the implications of technological change.

Thirdly, there were important technological gaps in the hardware and software offered by United Kingdom suppliers. Examples include control systems, sensors, actuators and transducers; microcomputers and minicomputers; and office systems.

Finally there was a lack of integration between suppliers of information technology (including electronics and the makers of manufacturing plant and equipment, and both users and suppliers could not find skilled personnel needed to develop and apply advanced technologies.

The current economic climate was adding to the difficulties, the director-general said. Both potential users and suppliers of advanced technologies had difficulty getting change accepted. He also added to the constraints on capital and research and development financing in what was a capital-intensive, high-risk field.

Research and development effort in support of the wider application of advanced technologies, the NEDO committees and working parties have indicated, needed to be coordinated, particularly by the Government.

Sectors such as machine tools and office equipment were doubly important because many other sectors of the economy depended on them for the efficiency of their own operations. A joint effort by three sector working parties—for office machinery, computers and telecommunications—should speed up cooperation between them and improve the supply of advanced office systems.

Consultations are now under way to identify ways of speeding up the application of advanced manufacturing systems. Work under the NEDO umbrella now needed to be strengthened in a number of ways, Mr Chandler said.

1. The NEDO groups should give higher priority to encouraging key industrial sectors to adopt advanced technologies more rapidly.

2. The committees and working parties should work more closely with the information technology supply sectors to increase the United Kingdom sources of hardware and software. The Electronics Economic Development Committee in particular should develop a United Kingdom electronics strategy.

3. Government awareness programmes which had played a big part in increasing the knowledge of the opportunities for advanced technologies should now be focused on specific sectors.

4. Government should ensure that policies promote the development of new products, and encourage standards of quality and design.

5. Public spending on research and development should be coordinated to meet longer-term technological and commercial objectives.

6. More information on advanced technologies should be given, through closer collaboration between trade associations, research associations, and the Department of Industry's requirements boards.

7. The financing of new technology-based firms should be assisted, (for example by introducing a loan guarantee scheme).

8. Government, the Confederation of British Industry, and the Trades Union Congress should examine ways of ensuring an adequate supply of people capable of developing and applying the new technologies.



Mr Geoffrey Chandler, director-general of NEDO: acceptance of new technology remains "sluggish".

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8. Government, the Confederation of British Industry, and the Trades Union Congress should examine ways of ensuring an adequate supply of people capable of developing and applying the new technologies.

In some areas, United Kingdom firms were as technologically advanced as many of their international competitors. Examples included food and drink manufacturing; the application of microelectronics to underground mining and the chemicals industry.

Mr Ingman said that neither he nor Gull was particularly worried by the revelation and that Sanger had been looking to forge closer links with Gull for some time.

Gulf has owned its stake in Sanger for the past 18 months. The two groups have complementary meat trading interests in Australia and Gulf Shipping is involved in transporting some of Sanger's products from Australia.

Sanger's principal bankers, Midland and Hambros, have confirmed their support for the group. Sanger's board says it is satisfied that the liquidity available is sufficient to absorb the loss created by Gilmore's collapse. Sanger's shares dipped by 1p to 17p last night.

On the same day that Sanger disclosed the outstanding debt by Gilmore it announced a new board member, Mr David Ingman. He is a member of Gulf Shipping which has a 10.5 per cent stake in Sanger.

Mr Alan Douglas, marketing manager of the Provincial, pointed out that if the societies were to continue to have a lean period "I doubt that we will have any alternative but higher interest rates." This view was echoed by Mr Geoffrey Thornton, the society's general manager.

Anticipating to some extent the forthcoming report from the Building Societies Association on alternative sources of finance for society operations, the Provincial confirmed its belief that the personal sector remained the proper source of funds.

Mr Douglas said the society considered it must continue to move into line with interest rates to attract sufficient investment. "If this means a higher cost to the borrower this must be preferable to an ever-lengthening mortgage queue," he added.

Points made by the Chairman, Mr. Leonard Redfern: —the general business tempo of the group remains satisfactory —BG continue to enjoy buoyant demand for wiring accessories —EFA have a steady requirement for fluorescent accessories although demand for starter switches has slowed —FWM and EP have good order books for trade mouldings —KI has corrected its problems and with a more streamlined operation should produce an adequate result

Extract from the Report and Accounts to 30th June 1979.

	1979	1978
In £'000	(9 months)	(15 months)
Turnover	7,309.8	2,022.0
Profit before tax	502.9	28.1
Earnings per share	6.75p	2.03p
Shareholders' Funds	1,743.0	372.9

Slowdown for US economy

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Jan 10

America's economic activity is slowing down and is set to decline further in coming months, according to new government reports.

At the same time, a new inflation report says there is little hope of significant short-term improvement.

The Bureau of Labour Statistics reported that wholesale prices for finished goods rose by 0.8 per cent (adjusted) in December. This was the first rise registered since last June, but wholesale prices for semi-finished goods were up by 1.2 per cent.

The Department of Commerce's latest business survey suggests that real private fixed investment spending this year may rise by only 1 to 2 per cent, compared with 4.5 to 5.5 per cent in 1979.

Most businesses are reporting high sales levels so far, but cuts in planned investment suggest they are expecting the economy to slow.

House building is already showing a significant decline. Sales of new houses were down 13 per cent in November against October. And a new forecast by the Mellon Bank's economists suggests that total new construction this year will be about 1.4 million units, which is 17 per cent below 1979.

Federal Reserve officials continue to complain loudly in public about the rate of inflation and thereby strengthen the impression that the FED has no intention of softening its tight credit policies.

Mr Charles Partee, one of the Fed's governors, said last night that recent money supply figures had been "amazingly favourable". Figures for the first quarter of 1980 might not be quite so good, he said.

Wholesale prices have gained by 12.5 per cent over the last year, with the index now at 227.8 (1967 equals 100). Prices, in particular, are moving so erratically that no clear trend is apparent.

Diamond field may be among world's largest

By Michael Prest

A diamond field which may be one of the biggest in the world has been discovered by the Ashton Joint Venture at Smoke Creek, Western Australia, according to reports from Australia last night. But no indication was available of the quality of the stones or their number.

Conzinc Riotinto of Australia, which has 52.6 per cent of the venture and is 68.2 per cent owned by Rio Tinto-Zinc, is reported to have said that only five fields are known to be bigger.

The progress report on the venture during the fourth quarter of 1979 said that mapping indicated a kimberlite pipe—the geological deposit in which diamonds are characteristically found—designated AK 1, and alluvial deposits

along Smoke Creek. AK 1 is estimated to be 45 hectares in area.

This compares with 146 hectares for Mwadi in Tanzania, the world's largest, and 106 hectares for the Orapa deposit in Botswana operated by De Beers. South Africa's famous Premier mine covers 30 hectares.

It may be true that the Ashton partners—who include Ashton Mining, AO Australia, Tanasau, Sibeka, and Northern Mining—have located a field of considerable size within their claim area. But the progress report is careful to say that the diamond content of the kimberlite and alluvial deposits vary widely and more work is needed.

Preliminary work suggests that the two deposits range in width from 50 to several hundred metres, and in depth from one to five metres.

CWS intensifies hunt for new chief

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Management consultants are to be brought in by the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) to find a successor as chief executive to Sir Arthur Sugden, who is due to retire in September. The CWS board has decided to look outside the movement for possible candidates as well as considering internal candidates.

The CWS supplies goods and services worth £1,700m a year to Britain's 11,000 Co-op shops operated by the 206 retail societies, whose representatives make up the governing board.

A decision on the new chief executive is expected to be made during the summer.

Although the Co-op is Britain's largest retailer, its market share has declined in recent years. But the 1979 results, due out soon, are expected to show a sales growth around 3 per cent with no further erosion in market share.

The Co-op is claiming substantially increased business from the launch of its own credit card which although used so far by only 35 societies, has attracted 35,000 cardholders, the largest number for any individual store card.

The choice of Sir Arthur's successor has assumed greater importance because of moves to unify the movement. The Co-op union, the central coordinating body, is exploring the latest of many plans to bring together the retail societies and the CWS activities.

The CWS is to have a meeting next month with Co-operative Retail Services, the £415m-a-year retail sales giant which grew out of an ambulance operation for societies in difficulties.

The chances of the two combining are not rated high in the movement but with these key discussions coming up, the CWS has acted quickly to appoint a new chairman as successor to Mr William Farrow, who retired unexpectedly last month, although he retained his



Mr Peter Paxton: influential chairman.

position as chief executive of the North Midlands Society.

The new chairman is Mr Peter Paxton, 56, who has been chief executive officer of the Cambridge and District Co-operative Society for seven years.

Mr Paxton is an influential figure in the national movement with a seat on the union's central executive committee.

Bar put on Cyprus textile imports

Imports of textiles from Cyprus into Britain are to be restricted under a voluntary agreement covering shirts, trousers, blouses, dresses and work clothing. The agreement runs until the end of 1980.

Action to protect British textile manufacturers from cheap, man-made fibre imports from the United States is being urged by Mr John Smith, Opposition spokesman for trade.

He has written to Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, suggesting restrictions as an interim measure pending any EEC move.

£2m flooding claims

General Accident has received claims worth £2m after the recent flooding in south Wales and south-west England. It is also processing up to 70 claims arising from the earthquake in the Carlisle area last month.

Pot Black success the cue for snooker revival

Television's big break for Riley

Nothing save inflation goes on for ever and nothing is more fickle than the fancy of armchair addicts of television sport. But the love affair between the snooker sportsman and the hair oiled, fancy waistcoated heroes of the green baize shows no sign of waning. Skating, showjumping, wrestling all have their devotees, but none generates the excitement of darts or snooker.

A small company called E. J. Riley can afford to smile. Yesterday it had its annual meeting amid the luxury of London's Connaught Rooms. This time they celebrated a jump in pre-tax profits from £497,000 to £803,000 in the year to last July, a far cry from the dark days of 1969 when snooker seemed to be dying.

The first floor of the local branch of Burtons was no longer full of green baize. Players

were moving away from temperance halls and into clubs with cheap beer, fruit machines and bar billiards.

Fate then smiled on Riley and gave it new life. It became possibly the biggest beneficiary of free television promotion ever known.

In 1969 the BBC was desperately seeking ways of using colour on its second channel. It hit on snooker as an experiment. The colours looked good and so did the perspective. A rushed commentary provided the right atmosphere. "Pot Black", the Daddy of all snooker programmes was born, and Mr Reg Perrin has produced it ever since. He now has an audience of nearly 4 million, a useful increase on the 20,000 viewers at the start. The rivals paid it the compliment of starting "Pro-Celebrity Snooker".

The majority of viewers are probably as innocent of the practical side of the game as they were a decade ago but "Pot Black" did start a wave of snooker playing around the country. Riley now has 28 clubs catering for people who actually want to play, and they have plans for many more. These are clubs with amenities, and it costs up to £1.50 an hour to play in them. They are a long way from the bed oil image of cigar smoke and exasperation.

Mr Perrin says: "We can see no fall in 'Pot Black's' popularity. Audience research shows that we have become a family institution." Mr Alan Deal, chartered accountant chairman of E. J. Riley adds: "Though we are the biggest single snooker hall owners in the country we are still very small."

"We have many more clubs to open and our substantial involvement in snooker clubs should stand the company in good stead, as there is a tradition that when times are bad the clubs are more heavily patronized."

Even so, the annual meeting was not just a celebration; it was also a reminder, as the chairman put it, that the current year is one of "tough struggle". There is, it seems, no danger of Riley being snookered; but it is more than likely to see a big fall in sales of its furniture as people run short of money.

Nor will it be easy to sell expensive chinaware and glass. It all points to profits-marking time or slipping. The shares duly eased 1p to 51p. Perhaps Riley has had its best years of growth behind it, rather than out in front, after all.

Peter Wainwright

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	
East Dagg	10p to 75c
Ferranti	20p to 449p
Grosvonts	30c to 75c
Fluorescent "A"	20p to 760p
Imp Cont Gas	22p to 623p
Falls	
Barclays	6p to 400p
Carlisle	10p to 138p
Hawkins T'pson	2p to 27p
Mincro	1p to 270p
Nelson David	1p to 14p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells	buys	sells
Australia \$	2.08	2.02	Norway Kr	11.82
Austria Sch	29.50	27.50	Portugal Esc	115.00
Belgium F	67.50	64.00	South Africa R	1.88
Canada \$	2.70	2.63	Spain Pta	155.00
Denmark Kr	12.55	12.00	Sweden Kr	9.68
Finland Mk	8.68	8.28	Switzerland Fr	3.75
France Fr	9.38	8.98	USA \$	2.31
Germany Dm	4.07	3.85	Yugosl Dnr	52.50
Greece Dr	100.50	95.50		
Hongkong \$	11.52	10.92		
Japan Y	1905.80	1810.00		
Korean Lire	557.00	532.00		
Nepal Ru	4.48	4.25		

Raise for small denomination bank notes issued systematically by the Bank of India, the Bank of Ceylon, the Bank of Malaya, the Bank of the Straits Settlements, the Bank of the East Indies, the Bank of the Philippines, the Bank of the Siam, the Bank of the Netherlands, the Bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of the United States, the Bank of the United Provinces, the Bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of the United States, the Bank of the United Provinces, the Bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of the United States, the Bank of the United Provinces, the Bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of the United States, the Bank of the United Provinces, the Bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of the United States, the Bank of the United Provinces, the Bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of the United States, the Bank of the United Provinces, the Bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of the United States, the Bank of the United Provinces, the Bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of the 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Sweden expects record deficit

Sweden's Government has set out a record deficit in next year's draft budget, with more than a quarter of public spending financed by debts.

Attempts to hold down public spending were defeated by higher oil costs and automatic increases in welfare benefits.

The deficit for the financial year starting on July 1 will be 550,400 kronor (£5,777m) compared with 490,000 kronor (£5,111m).

Mr Ingemar Mundebo, the Minister for Budgetary Affairs, said forecasts of similar deficits well into the 1980s gave cause for concern.

Japan selling water

Mitsui and Co. of Japan is negotiating to export fresh water to Kuwait in idle tankers. The company is testing the market in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to sell water from Yakushima island which has high rainfall.

Dutch wage freeze

Mr Andreas Van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister, announced a two month wage freeze after the failure to agree a four-month voluntary wage pause with employers and trade unions.

German pay claim

The West German metal workers union is demanding an increase of 10 per cent with a minimum of 153 marks (about £40) a month rise for 172,000 members in Rhineland-Pfalz.

EEC growth slows

EEC figures show industrial production in the Community grew four per cent last year—well above the 2.4 per cent increase in 1978.

But latest monthly figures confirm that production in the Community is slowing down.

US silver prices rise

Silver speculators, whose buying helped boost the metal's price six-fold last year, are apparently not swayed by the New York commodity exchange's moves to restrict their holdings.

Silver for delivery this month rose \$1.69 an ounce to settle at \$33.50 on the exchange.

Oil imports increase

Japan's imports of crude oil in 1979 would probably be the second largest ever at more than 280 million kilolitres, industry officials said yesterday.

Statistics showed that imports between January and November last year were up 5.07 per cent on last year.

Italy's car exports fall

Italy's output of cars dropped to 1.49 million units in 1979, from 1.509 million the previous year, according to Auto Makers. Car exports also showed a downward trend, to 630,000 from 640,000 in 1978.

Exports of industrial vehicles rose to 39,000 from 38,500.

Chrysler aid offer

Chrysler Corporation has received a cash aid offer from Michigan that could provide the company with more than \$200m. The most important element calls for the company to mortgage its newly renovated Trenton engine plant in return for a loan from Michigan's state pension fund.

Motor plants close

General Motors Corporation said it would temporarily halt production at six plants next week, bringing its total of workers on temporary layoff to 30,300. The shutdowns will affect car production at assembly plants in Michigan, Kansas, California and Ohio.

Resurgence of private demand behind the price boom, bankers say

Gold reverts to its traditional role

Although gold may be settling back from the high achieved at the beginning of this year, few European bankers are counting on a sharp fall in price.

This is because the belief is growing that the demand for gold has undergone a structural change in the last 12 months. In Europe, the Middle and Far East and North America, gold is being bought by people who in the past would never have dreamed of buying the metal. Perhaps even more important for current price developments, those people who hold gold are simply not selling.

It is the growth in individual demand that lies behind the latest gold rush rather than any diversification of reserve assets by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries market.

It now seems doubtful that the monetary authorities of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, the three Opec nations with a strong surplus position, were behind the latest price rise. But it is known that Arab trading houses have been significant buyers of gold, apparently to satisfy private demand.

The gold market is a difficult market to analyse because final demand is diverse and often concealed. It is a market dominated by emotions rather than logic, and predominant emotion is fear.

Over the last 12 months, the world has seen the "boat people" turned out to sea, the revolution in Iran, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The British public, which has never experienced invasion or occupation by enemy forces, may be shocked by such events but does not think immediately of buying gold.

Elsewhere in the world, outside North America, such scenes on the television screen night after night awake old memories that in times of crisis, gold is often the only way of ensuring escape from death. The blocking of Iran's assets in United States banks is also a reminder that gold is a portable asset.

In West Germany, for example, many people owe their existence today to a bag of gold coins kept under the bed which was finally used to bribe an escapee to the West ahead of invading Soviet troops. In France and Belgium, many a family was able to survive enemy occupation in the Second World War because of a private gold hoard.

The argument that fear is the main reason behind the present gold rush is

substantiated by the almost total absence of private sales, despite the dramatic increase in price. The typical gold holder is well off, and does not need to realize profits to finance purchases such as a house or a car.

The other major factor sustaining the price of gold is the shortage of new supply. Although the Soviet Union has reappeared in the market during the past few days, it is believed that its gold sales over the past year were well down on the level achieved in 1978.

Now that gold is so expensive, and President Carter has cut back grain sales to Russia, the Soviet Union will have to sell even less of the metal to meet their hard currency needs in 1980.

Although demand may calm down after the excesses of last week, shortage of supply is likely to be a dominant factor on gold markets this year.

The conviction has grown that the gold price can surge upwards without severely affecting currency markets. In such circumstances, it is hardly surprising that the West's central banks have decided, for the time being at least, against dumping gold on the market to quell speculative excesses.

Peter Norman



Mr John Pearce: terminals connected to a Florida computer centre.

Inroads into US market by Insac

By Kenneth Owen Technology Editor

A significant advance into the United States market is announced today by Insac Viewdata, the National Enterprise Board subsidiary which markets developed versions of the British Post Office's Prestel information system.

With General Telephone and Electronics (GTE), its American partner, Insac has signed contracts for viewdata systems with another 20 corporations in the United States. The customers include Chase Manhattan Bank; J. Walter Thompson; McGraw Hill; Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith; and Time Inc.

Mr John Pearce, managing director of Insac Viewdata, said that each corporation would install from one to five viewdata terminals in its offices. These would be connected via the GTE Telenet data network to a GTE computer centre at Tampa, Florida.

Insac expects the market for private viewdata systems (in-house company information systems, as distinct from the Post Office's Prestel public service) to expand rapidly during the 1980s.

Many of the newly contracted corporations, Insac believes, will establish their own in-house viewdata systems, but Insac's private system is claimed to be the first offered in the United States.

Too little help given to redundant executives, institute survey says

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Redundant executives are not being given enough help, the Institute of Personnel Management says in a survey published yesterday. In particular, the Professional and Executive Register, the Government's employment agency is criticized as being of little use in helping redundant executives find new jobs even though all are encouraged to register.

The survey found that only 20 per cent of the companies questioned used the agency to recruit junior executives. For senior executives the proportion fell to 10 per cent. Nearly half of those which did use the agency said they were dissatisfied with the service and some were very dissatisfied.

The agency was accused of offering only a passive service and of lacking industrial and commercial knowledge. There was also confusion between the Professional and Executive Register's social and commercial roles. It was seen

as having a bureaucratic image and poor status.

Help given by companies themselves was also considered inadequate. While policy statements claimed that extensive efforts would be made to help redundant executives, remarks made during interviews indicated that the reality may be very different.

For example, while stating that in theory there was no discrimination against employing an executive made redundant by another company, interviewees nearly always qualified this with remarks such as: "Mind you, it's bound to make you look more critically at his application form," and "you still wonder why they let him go if he was any good."

Although voluntary redundancy was frowned on (because of the risk of losing the best staff), 20 per cent of companies used the method.

The most common cause of redundancies for executives was a change in management structure. The decision on who to

make redundant was most frequently based on work performance.

The institute says companies "are not doing enough to cope effectively with the problem."

It calls for a planned approach including career counselling, sabbaticals, and preparation for early retirement.

Sixty per cent of respondents said they had formal procedures for dealing with redundancies at executive level. But there were discrepancies between policies and implementation. While companies were willing to give staff time off to attend interviews and for consultation with the board, they were less willing to wait to be asked rather than to advise people or to make facilities available as a matter of course.

Too few companies gave part-time or consultancy work to redundant executives.

"Executive Redundancy" available from the Institute of Personnel Management, Central House, Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0HX, price £15.

UK doubts on Soviet credit link renewal

The British Government has not yet decided whether to renegotiate a \$550m credit to the Soviet Union opened under a 1975 trade agreement, and due to expire on February 16.

The credit line is one of the most important of the trade and credit agreements which have been discussed since United States-Soviet relations worsened after the Afghanistan coup.

About \$550m of the credit has so far been taken up, mainly in the form of buyer credits banked by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Political sources said they did not expect any announcement on the trade agreement before Parliament reassembled on January 14.

Much would also depend on the attitude of Britain's European trading competitors and a move was not expected without coordination with these nations, sources said.

They added that a refusal to negotiate a new or extended agreement might have more adverse effects on British industry than Soviet industry.—Reuters

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need for changes in companies' board structure and accounting

From Mr J. B. H. Jackson

Sir, The proposals in the Companies Bill concerning the duties of directors to their employees—Hugh Stephenson's "Slow-burning fuse" (Business News, January 8)—should be welcomed by the community as a whole, and particularly by company directors.

It is not because it reflects "best practice" that it is so welcome. Nor is it because it achieves directors' duties by the necessity of always being able to rationalize their decisions as being "in the interests of shareholders"—and pretty shareholding contents this has required sometimes.

It is because the proposals make it finally clear that the prime duty owed by directors is to their company, although in the course of discharging that duty they must take into account, in a fiduciary way, interests of shareholders and employees.

Any "industry-dependent" society has an interest in determining the way in which directors see that duty to their company and particularly how they achieve it. Accounting for the way in which they discharge it. One "portmanteau" way of describing this duty would be as "to ensure the continuity of the enterprise." This implies, of course, the continuity of employment at some level. In a competitive and otherwise hostile environment the faithful discharge of that duty will necessitate decisions from time to time as to whether shareholders or employees or both will be sacrificed.

The fact that people dislike a decision does not mean it is against their interests. However, it does put a spotlight on the whole question of accountability. Continuation of effective self-accountability is plainly unsatisfactory. The answer to this must now be found in the structure of boards. This answer could lie in a better use of non-executive directors evolving ultimately into a two-tier system

suitable to our industrial environment.

Continuity is, or ought to be, the motivating force underlying reductions in manning levels, whether directly or indirectly by technological innovation. Such reductions are naturally disliked by those immediately affected and often also by remaining employees, even though they benefit from the greater prospects of continuity.

Continuity is also, or ought to be, the cause underlying pressure for the adoption of inflation accounting to defuse shareholders' protests. Such inflation accounting may well be disliked by shareholders. It probably reduces the profit available for distribution to them and the matching action to them of the company's share price. It is not intended (the goal being continuity) ever actually to come into their hands.

Nevertheless, if they are willing participants in a situation in which society as a whole requires continuity to be the dominant factor, their interests should be seen in that light and held to exclude the possibility of maximising distributable profits by the adoption of accounting policies regarded by directors as inimical to continuity.

The significant end of Hugh Stephenson's "fuse" lies under the subjects of board structures and accounting policies. It is time that the thought that has been given to both these subjects was blown away and new ideas given a more important role in an industrial community and can ultimately have a profound impact both on the rate of adaptation to technological change and on the climate of industrial relations.

Some of the nastiest problems at present under our noses make it clear that time is not on our side. Moreover, with regard to board structures, there are again ideas floating around in Brussels and Strasbourg, some of which are wrong in themselves in that they link board structures too closely to

employee participation, and others of which are not suited to the British situation insofar as they are somewhat "germanic" in the rigidity of their approach.

If we do not make more progress ourselves, however, events may overtake us. Let us hope "the fuse" does not burn too slowly.

J. B. H. JACKSON, Director, Philips Industries, Arundel Great Court, 8 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DT, January 10.

From Mr John Waters

Sir, Hugh Stephenson makes the excellent point in his article (January 8) that the Companies Bill reflects existing "best practice" where directors take employees' interests into account. It is for this reason that The Industrial Society welcomes the Bill.

Directors, however, can turn to immediate action rather than long-term worrying. To give effect to this nebulous requirement a first step should be the provision of financial information about the company at least (measurable) that is given to shareholders. Another implication is the setting up of a formal joint consultative system to take into account the views of employees prior to managerial decision taking.

If this latter step is taken on a voluntary basis as a result of the Companies Bill we may yet all be spared some future "Industrial Democracy and Participation Bill" straitjacket as an obligatory requirement.

Yours faithfully, JOHN WATERS, Associate Adviser, Industrial Relations Department, The Industrial Society, 3 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DG, January 9.

Role of reserve asset

From Mr D. R. Persson

Sir, Trust the people. They may be smarter than the economists. Your leading article of January 4 rightly recommends that "in some way holders of dollars have to be offered some reserve asset in terms and in the quantities sufficient to satisfy their current desire to diversify out of the dollar."

In its own way the market is trying to say what it thinks that reserve asset should be and helping to establish those terms. A step towards monetary stability will have been taken when any international trading currency becomes freely and unambiguously convertible, on creditably predictable terms, into some universally acceptable reserve asset.

Quantity is not a problem: because the ideal reserve asset total quantity is fixed and does not have to be decided. Availability will look after itself if the price of the asset is right, in terms of the unfixed paper money that serves the people as a medium of exchange. There is a price at which holders of dollars could have as much gold as they want.

At something approaching its current, as yet thinly traded, market value of well under a tenth of its 1933 parity, the dollar might once again become, as it has been in the past, a gold-backed currency.

Yet if all along the parity had depreciated continuously, at a tolerably variable rate of a few percent a year, we might have been spared the problems of the recent years. At a rate of 5 per cent a year over 47 years, \$35 an ounce would have grown to \$347.

A continually varying gold parity would be better than a fixed one. It would accommodate what is the central weakness of any fixed-parity system—the chronic inflation of secondary currencies.

We could leave for another day the invention of a primary asset more acceptable than gold.

D. R. PERSSON, 42 Park House Gardens, Twickenham, Surrey, Middlesex.

Challenge of Finniston

From Mr Peter Weitzel

Sir, At the dawn of the decade, when we are looking at a technological future, the Finniston Report provides some reading about our past and a challenge to all for the next decade.

Industry, which has not attached proper importance to training, and the education system, which has not fully adjusted to the different needs of the technician and the engineer, have to cooperate both in the formation of the trainee and in his or her commitment to maintain a fitness to practice in the face of rapid change.

Society, as it becomes more aware of technological matters (numbers of trained science teachers permitting), will begin to understand the great contribution engineers and technicians make. Today's practising engineers will have an important role to play in improving the future generations of engineers by showing experience and expertise.

I, as a 25-year-old electrical engineer, look not only to the rapid and widespread implementation of the report, but also to the opportunities that the next decade holds for me, and my colleagues in engineering, to help those in Britain to a great future.

Yours faithfully, PETER WEITZEL, 46 Clare Court, Judd St, London WC1.

Sir Michael's message for survival

From Mr Alexander Kenworthy

Sir, I hope that every sensible person in Britain will understand the message spelt out by Sir Michael Edwards in *The Times* today (January 2).

There is no future for any industry in this country if people—particularly trade union officials and company directors—persist in buying foreign cars and other products.

Britain has gone through difficult times since 1945 and made many mistakes, but surely it is time that we all realized that if we do not buy our own products we do not deserve to survive as an industrial nation.

Yours faithfully, ALEXANDER KENWORTHY, Holly Hill, Ewell, Surrey.

Energy gap complacency

From Dr B. R. T. Keene

Sir, Your editorial comment to the effect that "coal at almost any price will retain its importance at least until the energy gap is behind us" (any price) leaves one of your readers, at least, in a quandary. Should I inquire of the author what information he has that is not available to the rest of us, or simply stand aghast at his monumental complacency?

Yours faithfully, BRIAN KEENE, Cranmore, 108 Marshall Road, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0AN.

Qualities absent in struggle to restore British industry

From Mr T. H. Hawkins

Sir, This morning I received the annual report and accounts of an engineering group which records its eleventh successive years of growth. Apart from the good financial news, many shareholders will have welcomed the unusual enclosure of a paper recently delivered by John Osola, the group's chief executive, to a meeting of engineers in the Midlands.

The paper is in itself remarkable for its penetrating analysis of the circumstances which have led to the decline of British manufacturing industry over the last 20 years. Government, politicians, civil servants, banks, finance houses and trade unionists are all reviewed and shown to be not quite the prime influences on Britain's ailing industry which confronting protagonists have used to believe.

In Mr Osola's view, what has been lacking is good leadership, which he has the temerity to define. For him leadership is that quality which enables subordinates (and these are the men and women which industry in Britain badly needs if it is to begin to catch up with the rest of the world. Do not the universities and the very own futures are completely dependent upon whether or not we survive as an industrial nation? Many of the staff at universities see their jobs as "teach and research", but it is high time

they began to ask where these exclusive attitudes are leading us.

There is already evidence to show that within two decades most of our traditional industries will have been overtaken by Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Comecon countries and other so-called developing nations because they have the labour and the resources to get results which we either cannot or will not.

If we are to have a future—and in human terms the world as it is today is a poorer place without us—that future lies in developing new technological industries by making use of the "intellectual store" we have accumulated over the last hundred years. The universities and other educational institutions must provide men and women for manufacturing industry with a conviction that so-called "British genius" is not enough. It is to be practical use with an economic return.

Mr Osola has begun a crusade to tackle immediate problems and it is hoped that fellow industrialists will join him. The universities particularly should join him in the crusade.

Yours faithfully, T. H. HAWKINS, Fulwood Park, Sheffield, S10 3TQ, January 9.

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مكتبة الأصيل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Waiting for the next tap stock

It seemed a good day for the monetary authorities in the gilt-edged market. With the market in a more bullish frame of mind and institutional coffers starting to fill once again, the Government Broker was able to run out the remainder of the long "tap"—perhaps as much as £400m-£500m of it. On top of that there was at least some interest in the new short "tap"—possibly to the tune of £100m-£200m.

All of this should be good news for monetary control, not least for the January money supply figures that the market has been feeling rather nervous about in spite of the apparent slackening in monetary growth in November/December. The unknown factor in all this, however, has been the amount of net sales the authorities achieved yesterday. The feeling in some parts of the market yesterday was that they may not have been all that large.

If that is the case, then it is unlikely to be long before we see a new long-dated stock launched. Certainly, yesterday's Central Government borrowing figures for December were quite as bad as feared and though the market may well have discounted a full year's FBR of around £9,000m, there is little scope for the authorities to ease up on their funding programme, particularly if CTDs are being heavily applied towards tax payments at the moment.

Highland Distilleries

Judging the downturn

The response by Highland Distilleries to Hiram Walker's £80m cash offer suggests that at this stage Highland is prepared to allow the issue to become bogged down in detail. It can afford to do that; its share price at 14½ is still riding 11p above the terms and big institutional shareholders—Britannic with 5 per cent and Prudential with 4.2 per cent—seem to be saying that they don't like the look of the offer.

Thus, Highland avoids any discussion of the underlying asset position (which I think will be the crucial argument if this bid follows its full course), gives no profits forecast or any indication of future dividend policy. It means that Highland has several important shors in its locker if it needs to use them—and Hiram must decide by a week today whether to extend its offer, and presumably if it does by what amount it will raise the terms given that the response so far has been negative.

That begs the question about whether Hiram will continue or consider that it has enough on its plate with its plans to move into the Canadian energy industry and merge with Goddard & Worts without battling through the complications involved in a successful bid for Highland.

The complexity of Highland's links with Robertson & Baxter, an important blender in which Highland holds a 35.4 per cent stake and with which it shares the benefits of Highland's best-known Scotch brand, Famous Grouse, are spelt out in Highland's latest document which includes an outline of the agreement between the two.

Until now Highland has treated its stake in Robertson as an investment taking dividend income and valuing it in its books at only £0.2m. But it now says that the "commercial reality" of the association is that it is not merely a trade investment.

Quite apart from the sort of sums thrown up by consolidating the Robertson stake, its share of Robertson net assets would mean that Hiram's terms are perhaps as much as 30p short of Highland's potential net value. That debate comes later, however. First, we shall have to see whether Hiram has the confidence to go further, and it would be no surprise to see Highland's share price expressing such doubts next week.

English China Clays

Shots in the locker

After a sluggish first half, when it was dogged by bad weather and the transport strike, the second half has really come good for English China Clays to leave full year profits 35 per cent ahead at £33.1m. Indeed, the underlying performance was even better with £3.8m of one-off debits charged direct to profits and a £1.6m extraordinary credit arising from a claim to claw back stock relief taken below the line.

How much that is conservative accounting

and how much it reflects ECC's concern about the 1980 outlook is uncertain. But now that it has proved it can get back on a growth tack after the previous year's slip, the key factor now for the shares is how hard it will be hit by the recession.

The first quarter of this year has got off to a good start with an average 12½ per cent price rise from January 1 and volume holding up. ECC says it is uncertain about the course of the recession. But its stocks are beginning to rise and the last time destocking in the paper industry took place in a big way five years ago, clay demand slipped a lot more than the 2.3 per cent downturn for which the group's internal forecasts are budgeting.

ECC, in common with other groups, has also weathered the anticipated downturn in quarries, again due to good price increases, and profits in the quarry division rose almost a tenth to £7.1m. With transport also £400,000 ahead at £2.7m, the only black spot was building where provisions on a contract in Northern Ireland and closure losses on a couple of ill-judged ventures in the West Indies and the Middle East have meant a £1.1m write-off, offsetting perhaps a £600,000 contribution from the leisure side.

There is still enough momentum to provide a strong opening half this year. But a dull second half will lead to little earnings growth this year and the fully-taxed p/e ratio of 8 looks high compared with what is available on similar investments.

As promised, the dividend has gone up by just over a quarter to 7.1p a share gross for a yield of 8.8 per cent at 81½. Longer-term there are still nagging worries that the centre of the paper industry could move from Scandinavia, where ECC has its monopoly, to the southern United States—hence ECC's move to buy a small clay producer there at the end of last year, whose £10m price tag has caused balance sheet gearing to edge up.

Sotheby

Up goes the dividend

Although Sotheby Parke Bernet figures were not up to best expectations, they provide little support for the bid rumours that have had the share price fluctuating during the past year. Moreover fears of possible action by the Restrictive Practices Court also appear to have been assuaged, while the



The Earl of Westmorland, chairman of Sotheby Parke Bernet.

antique dealers' buyers' premium case against Sotheby's and Christie's has been set for a distant date in 1981.

With profits up by 17 per cent to £8.2m, Sotheby has boosted the dividend 28 per cent to a total of 16.4p gross, where the yield of 4.26 per cent at 38½ is now more in line with that of Christie's 4.7 per cent. The strength of sterling undoubtedly had a detrimental effect on the results which showed a 22 per cent increase in gross revenue to £38.3m on net sales of £186m, compared with £161m the previous year. Sotheby's believe that sales would have topped the £200m mark but for exchange losses.

With the fine art market in the United States improving its contribution annually—last year sales amounted to £66.7m of the group total—and the general flight from money, it is hardly surprising that the most dominant feature of Sotheby's trading in the first four months of the current year was a 31 per cent increase in United States auction sales. So, despite a warning about the company's vulnerability to inflation, its optimism expressed in the dividend is probably justified.

Some of those now keeping their fingers crossed for the American hostages in Iran are the sober-suited men in international banking.

The mixture of politics with banking is anathema to them. But they have already been dragged into the conflict between America and Iran, and could become even more deeply involved if the hostages are not released soon.

It is now clear that countries with big financial centres and which are close allies of the United States would force their commercial banks to impose severe restrictions on their business with Iran if the United Nations approved sanctions. That includes Britain.

The claim by the unnamed American official that such restrictions would be enforced whether or not a sanctions resolution was approved, probably sprang more from wishful thinking than from fact.

America would certainly like its allies to commit themselves to such action, especially now that Russia has indicated that it will veto a sanctions resolution. But their agreement is not yet in the bag.

The dilemma which most European bankers face for most of the time is how to balance their commercial and business relationships with politics in their central banks. This was illustrated clearly by the enthusiastic reception which the Americans experienced when they toured Europe and Japan late last year to drum up support for President Carter's decision to freeze official Iranian assets.

Far from joining in the freeze, Britain, West Germany, Switzerland and others refused at that stage to contemplate any financial measures against Iran. Bankers breathed a sigh of relief.

Iran: how far will the banks be made to go?



President Carter entertaining Mrs Thatcher in Washington last month: her unequivocal support for the American line has caused some concern in the City.

Since then there has been a definite shift of sentiment towards the Americans. This has been most marked at the political level and most noticeable in Britain. Grumblings from the City suggest that British bankers are less than happy with Mrs Thatcher's apparently unequivocal support for the Americans.

The British Government has agreed the line of freezing Iranian assets, but has now agreed to impose restrictions on new deposits in British banks by official Iranian bodies, on new borrowing and on converting official Iranian dollars into other currencies, if the United Nations approves sanctions.

It was yet to be decided to go ahead with these measures even without a sanctions resolution if other European countries and Japan join in.

One reason why America's allies might agree to do that is, ironically, the United States threat of sanctions against the Soviet Union in retaliation for the invasion of Afghanistan.

The enormous volume of the debt in the Euro-market that European bankers view with horror, the possibility of financial sanctions affecting their relations with Eastern Europe. Sanctions against Iran are the lesser evil.

There are two slightly different sorts of reason why British clearing banks hope that even these will not be imposed in the end. The first is the long-term damage that would be done to their customer relations and to the trust underlying these.

The second reason is more straightforwardly commercial. Many British banks have substantial claims against Iran. In

some cases these are of longer maturity than the deposits held by the banks. In some they are considerably larger than the deposits.

If normal commercial relations between Iran and Britain are suspended these banks could eventually find themselves whistling for their money.

Such a prospect understandably sends shivers through the banking world. There is, however, a slightly more optimistic version of this financial game plan which suggests that British banks might in fact benefit if the Americans persuade their allies to go ahead with measures against Iran.

There have been rumours that Iranian and other oil money is being switched out of London, or not brought there in the first place, because of the American line.

Backer of the United States, if other countries, whose banks compete for funds with British banks, join in coordinated

action against Iran, then Britain will no longer be singled out.

It is, however, extremely hard to substantiate such stories. Some bankers claim that so far there have been negligible repercussions on London's role as a financial centre from the United States-Iran troubles.

Other Middle Eastern countries, they say, have taken note of the British refusal to join in the American freeze. Certainly, the evidence from the foreign exchange markets in recent weeks is that demand for sterling is undiminished and Arab money is probably among that coming into London.

It has been of key importance to the Americans to get widespread agreement for action against Iran. It is virtually inconceivable that Britain would decide to go it alone with the Americans on the imposition of financial restrictions. These can be properly effective only if all the major banking centres join in.

If they do, the refusal to accept new deposits would force them to take their money right outside the major banking world, if they want to switch it at all. It would in the end be very difficult for Iran to carry out its business.

Any deposits in, for example, Algeria or Libya would have—in the end—to find their way back into the major centres. If they were then identified as Iranian they could be rejected by American, European and Japanese banks, making normal financial operations impossible for Iran.

The shock waves from the United States-Iran money war will be felt in the banking world for some time. They will be that much greater if the financial conflict is widened to include West Europe and Japan.

But the longer the hostages are held in violation of international law the harder it is for America's allies to refuse to match verbal support with action.

It is probably still true that if the hostages are released unharmed the bankers can uncross their fingers and return to business as usual. But one semi-permanent side-effect of the crisis will be an enormous boost to lawyers' business on both sides of the Atlantic.

They have enough work to last them for months if not years on the one side and counter-claims concerning Iranian deposits with foreign branches of American banks. They are also now getting their teeth into changes banks want to make in the structure of syndicated loans.

The decision by Chase Manhattan to declare an Iranian loan in default on technical grounds and without giving full information to all syndicate members will lead to a vast increase in the legal documentation on these loans.

Transformer makers on a slimming diet

Richard Evans

GEC Power Transformers, whose workforce has fallen by three quarters in a decade to a mere 300, recently won crucial contracts worth £4m, including an order to build nine transformers for Drax power station in Yorkshire.

The new contracts, along with large export orders from Australia and Hong Kong, guarantee the immediate future of GEC's Stafford plant; but they do not signal the start of a bright new future for the transformer industry, which has become little short of an industrial disaster area. GEC Power Transformers survives, but the decline which has plagued the business since the mid-1960s has claimed other well-known victims.

The most recent was Ferranti, which would have closed its transformer plant much earlier had it not been for government intervention. Last September it finally decided to pull out and should complete remaining orders at its Hollinwood plant by the spring.

The downfall of a once booming industry began with the completion of 275 kilovolt (kV) and 400 kV systems which had kept the overextended business reasonably busy.

With home orders rapidly dwindling, British companies felt the pinch as European orders began to come in. Traditional United Kingdom export markets, it became apparent that the British had dropped behind technologically. Since 1965 the number of companies producing major export orders during the 1970s has fallen from 14 to fewer than half a dozen and the industry's workforce has been halved in the last decade.

As companies searched for export orders during the 1970s they came against further barriers. The energy crisis and projections of slower industrial growth resulted in the damping of demand while environ-

mentalists—particularly in the United States—held back nuclear power stations and the orders that went with them.

Developing countries, such as South Korea, stopped ordering from United Kingdom companies as they themselves became more highly industrialized and East European countries, searching for hard currency, began successfully to undercut British goods.

But it was the intervention of the Japanese in the latter part of the seventies which was to be the real catastrophe for United Kingdom companies chasing export orders. In the last three to four years Japan has managed to dominate the world market and now has about 40 per cent of the available orders overseas.

The few British companies still left in the industry have had to make substantial cuts in recent years, just to stay afloat. GEC carried out its "restructuring" a year ago, with the inevitable redundancies, so it could reduce overheads and become more competitive.

Persons Peables in Edinburgh is going through the same process now. Last month it announced it was cutting its 1,750 workforce by 400 because of the fall in demand. But its determination to emerge successfully from the industry's gloomy past is reflected in its decision still to go ahead with a £500,000 investment programme.

Mr Peter Saunders, commercial director of GEC Power Transformers, sums up the recent past of the industry as a "disaster story". He believes there is still too much capacity chasing too little de-

mand. "We were delighted to get these latest contracts and everybody here heaved sighs of relief."

The lack of demand at home is such that any one of the company still producing transformers could fill all orders and would still need export trade.

"We are not such an important segment of the economy as we used to be," Mr Saunders adds. "There is not the demand to meet the capacity. Nobody has yet decided to cut out and get out—the market forces are having to do it for them."

He, together with others in the industry, believes that there is a way ahead through all the gloom and doom. With companies having introduced, or undergoing, pruning in an effort to be more competitive there are still overseas orders to be won—especially in South Africa, Greece, Australia, Saudi Arabia and India.

Mr Geoffrey Harper, one of the directors of Hawker Siddley's power transformer plant at Walthamstow, says: "It is going to be difficult, but I think we are probably as well placed as any."

Parsons Peables is confident that it will pull through, while GEC, boosted by the Drax order from the Central Electricity Generating Board, says that it is strong enough to survive.

The hopes and determination to succeed will not, of course, be a guarantee in themselves of success in gaining orders against the strong competition from overseas, even when it comes to the defence of the British market. It is a result of Britain's expanding nuclear power station programme.

As one company spokesman put it: "I would have thought the worst was over for the British power transformer industry. It depends on what happens to oil and gas and how much electricity is going to be used in the future—and the next five years are crucial."

Technology

Stepping up the rate of innovation

A new role emerged this week for the committees and sector working parties of the National Economic Development Office—the development of technology strategies for the various sectors of United Kingdom industry.

The proposal came from the Government's Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development (ACARD); though the role is not yet officially confirmed it is in line with present NEDD thinking.

The urgency of the task is set out plainly at the beginning of this week's ACARD report on technological change: "If Britain is to survive as a trading nation it is essential to increase the rate of technological innovation."

New industries, key industries of the future, must be identified and fostered. They will not arise spontaneously; they will grow out of existing industries, in many cases out of the conjunction of different technologies and industrial sectors.

Different industries require different forms of technological innovation; hence the call for sectoral strategies—to establish goals and devise policies for attaining them through coordinated research and development.

Pointers to the new strategies required are to be found in the ACARD report. Different factors will affect the older industries, such as steelmaking and vehicle assembly; small businesses; industries which have lost competitiveness; service industries; and new industries.

In the older industries, there is competition not only with other advanced industrial nations but also with low-wage, developing countries, backed by the latest production technology and often with a substantial capacity for exports.

In Britain these industries are in general not competitive because their labour productivity is low and this will get worse as competitors adopt new technology.

So in this sector future success will depend on companies adopting more efficient manufacturing methods. Research and development must aim at more sophisticated design and higher reliability in manufacturing processes and end-products. This could well be one area where foreign technology may need to be imported.

Even if productivity does improve, however, traditional export markets in developing countries will be lost to new industries growing up in these areas. Industries known as "high-tech" and "advanced equipment" and this must mean scope for export business.

As to small enterprises, the advisory council noted a gross imbalance in the national pattern of R and D resources. Companies with more than 5,000 employees accounted for more than 80 per cent of both research and development manpower and industrial R and D spending, and received more than 90 per cent of the total government spending on industrial R and D.

In other words, small businesses spend little on research and development. Often they depend on their founders' experience and contacts, which are inevitably limited, rather than on any formal research and development organization. More and better consultancy services would enable small

firms to keep abreast of advances in technology; these services could be provided by contract research organizations, research associations, government and industry itself.

Large companies will rarely translate their complex research output into production. Exploitable "surplus" research could be licensed to existing small firms, or new small companies could be set up by the large ones to exploit appropriate ideas. Small companies may be better able to exploit advances in technology.

Turning to industries that have lost competitiveness, the advisory council traced a common sequence of events which had led to crises in a variety of United Kingdom finished-goods industries, where imports had risen substantially in recent years—eg., electronic appliances, consumer electronics, cutlery and office machinery.

In the first stage, goods from abroad undercut domestic products and gain a significant market share. The home industry's defensive response is to reduce prices, make losses and then retreat into the higher priced end of the market.

In order to maintain its traditional place in the market it may also import and market some of the foreign products under a United Kingdom brand-name. Overseas companies will then start to compete in the higher price bracket.

The United Kingdom manufacturer may then try to respond at this late stage with plans to increase productivity in the chosen market area but, because the initial withdrawal was purely defensive, the remaining market is unlikely to be large enough to justify the large-scale investment in new equipment and product redesign which is necessary for effective competition. This recovery of the lost market is impossible.

"This kind of pressure," the advisory council says, "is likely to be applied across an increasingly wide range of products over the next 15 years as Japan and the newly industrialized countries which have adopted Japanese tactics reach the limits of existing markets."

Service industries, including the service parts of the information technology industries, will grow in importance in the years ahead. By contrast with the United Kingdom manufacturing sector, the service industries use labour efficiently by international standards.

Higher productivity in manufacturing through the adoption of new technology should lead to more employment in the traditional service industries for some of the displaced unskilled or semi-skilled workers.

Here the benefits will often be taken up in providing more and improved services rather than in reduced employment.

New technologies will inevitably create new employment opportunities, in both established and completely new industries. The information industry, in particular, is likely to mature into a high volume industry, offering substantial job opportunities.

In this, as in other areas, the trends will be towards a blurring of traditional boundaries between industrial sectors. Indeed, the NEDO sector working parties (if they still exist) 10 years from now will include a fair number of completely new sectors which have not yet been thought of.

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Plane tales from Southern Rhodesia

Salisbury. At 10.30 yesterday morning a British Airways plane came in low over the swimming pools of Salisbury and landed at the airport of the Rhodesian capital, the first to do so for 14 years.

The airliner, an American jumbo jet, was captained on the final Nairobi to Salisbury stretch of the 5,500-mile trip from London by a former Rhodesian Air Force pilot, Michael Murray.

On board were 369 passengers, including me. Sitting in the very first seat at the head of the plane was Ross Stainton, BA's chairman, and in the only other seat next to him was Sir Henry Phillips, former African colonial official and banker.

Of the BA chairman's guests on board this inaugural flight no one was more fêted than Sir Henry, for he it was who had played a part in seeing that this plum route was awarded not to the private enterprise airline, British Caledonian, but to its bitter rival British Airways, the United Kingdom's flag carrier.



Sir Henry Phillips (left), a member of the Civil Aviation Authority board, and Ross Stainton, British Airways chairman, front seats on the Salisbury Jumbo.

Southern Rhodesia, but did not operate the route from 1965 after the imposition of sanctions against the Smith regime. British Airways also had a licence, and though the state carrier also stopped services to Salisbury from 1976 onwards it managed with the approval of the British Government to reopen an office in Rhodesia.

In that year BCal applied to renew its licence, subject to some variations after a political decision that BA and it should not duplicate intercontinental routes.

Now British Caledonian did not ask for Salisbury to be deleted from its permitted des-

hold a rush hearing last month, as an agreement at Lancaster House seemed more likely.

British Caledonian complained that Salisbury had been taken away without any public consultation or any reasons given. It might have been the airline said, that an employee agreed verbally to the deletion, but—perhaps unsurprisingly—BCal can find no record of it.

The Civil Aviation Authority, however, allowed British Airways' objection to BCal's resumption of the Salisbury route—and so, by a stroke of the pen or a ship of the tongue three and a half years ago, five years' rights to a potentially lucrative prestige route go to the public corporation instead of a commercial airline.

If Ross Stainton was keen to get BA to Salisbury Ray Byerley was keen to get first himself here, then a lot of other people. Byerley is the marketing manager of the travel agency side of insurance brokers Hogg Robinson. His group has more than 40 outlets throughout the South-east of England, most specializing in business travel.

Insurance broking being the business it is nowadays, his firm would like more travel agency outlets able to offer more destinations such as Rhodesia—which, given peace, offers opportunities not only in the business and kit and kin markets but also in the tourist trade.

Stainton, and his collaborator in the new London-Salisbury route, Brian Stringer, chairman of Air Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, are hoping for brisk travel business between the United Kingdom and Rhodesia over the next year.

Byerley thinks it will need at least a year of peace before the tourist trade picks up. He would also like to see some incentive fares on the route. During UDI international talks that brought down some fares in Africa bypassed Rhodesia and an occasional return from London to Salisbury costs upward of £900. Stainton, however, is holding out the prospect of excursion fares of two thirds less.

I had a word with Michael Robson, deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, who was going back to Rhodesia for the first time since UDI. Standard Chartered was not far behind Cecil Rhodes in setting up an office there and now has more than 50 branches throughout the country.

One of the first things he wanted to do was to renew acquaintance with Evan Campbell, a former Rhodesian BA Commissioner in London and about to retire from the chairmanship of Standard Bank in Rhodesia.

There was no question of trying to feed back to Britain the profits the local subsidiary had made over the past 14 years, Robson said. "It's a question

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RADIO

TELEVISION

TELEVISION

HTV CYMRU/WALES: As general service except: 1.20 pm Prawnau Nowyddion Y Dydd. 1.25 Report Wales. 4.15 Y Fuddugoliaeth. 6.00 Y Dydd. 8.15 Report Wales. 10.00 News followed by Report Wales. 10.30 Electric Theatre Show.

HTV WEST: As general service.



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I assume you are as relieved as I am that television has now been put to rest in its determination to scamper backwards through the past year, past year, past year. It is, as it is probably represented by today's edition of *After Noon* Plus (*TV*, 2.00), by at least the retrospective theme will expire on the anniversary of the great decade. No review of the past century of the past decade, but a much longer look back, almost to the dawn of the century. In the studio, facing that caring interviewer, Mavis Nicholson, will be Lord Brockway, the pacifist peer, now a sprightly 92; Lady Wootton of Abinger, the Socialist life peer, economist and former deputy Speaker of the House of Lords; and the author, writer, and, I think, the expert on the fauna of Africa (also 83, and making her TV debut) and Sir Victor Pritchett (V. S. Pritchett), the author and critic land, at 80, a comparative junior.

The advent of a Francis Durbridge thriller is always an occasion to celebrate, and though Mr Durbridge has done much more (and better) work for radio and TV than the Paul Temple series and The World of Tim Frazier, it is by these two superbly written and superbly acted thrillers that he is chiefly known. *Breakaway* (BBC 1, 8.30) is not only a serial but two, each of six episodes. Martin Jarvis is the detective on the point of quitting the force so that he can write books. Then comes a murder case and he has to think again. I welcome Mr Jarvis's reversion to drama. I did not think he looked at all at home amid the domestic absurdities of *Rings on their Fingers*.

One budding writer who manages to pen the words Chapter One and then gives up the ghost, will find comfort in today's feature by June Knox-Mawer (Radio 4, 4.10) in which eminent writers like Kingsley Amis and Dick Francis, describe the agonies and strange gestation rituals that precede the birth of the written word. . . . The marriage between Parliament and the BBC has had, is having, and will always have, its ups and downs and today's repeated Radio 4 feature (11.05 am) marks the Golden Jubilee of this happy/unhappy couple.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE;
(r) REPEAT.

[illegible]

EVITA

The Theatrical Event for the Decade

LOS ANGELES

